MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
VOLUME 8

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 145-156

ARCHIE GOODWIN & HERB TRIMPE

WITH ROY THOMAS

MARVEL

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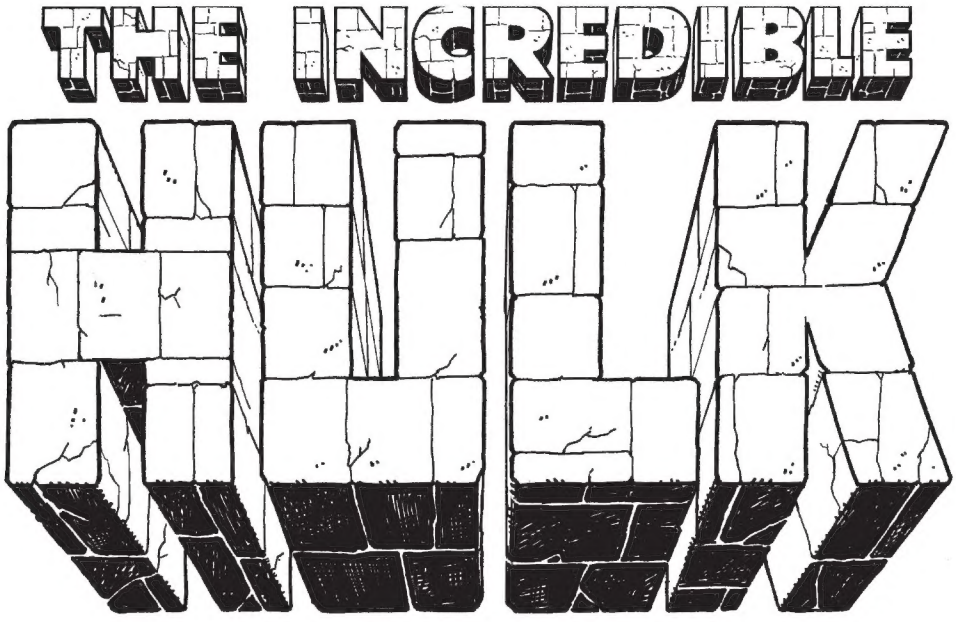
PRESENTS



VOLUME 8

COLLECTING

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 145-156

ARCHIE GOODWIN • HERB TRIMPE

WITH ROY THOMAS

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NOS. 145-156

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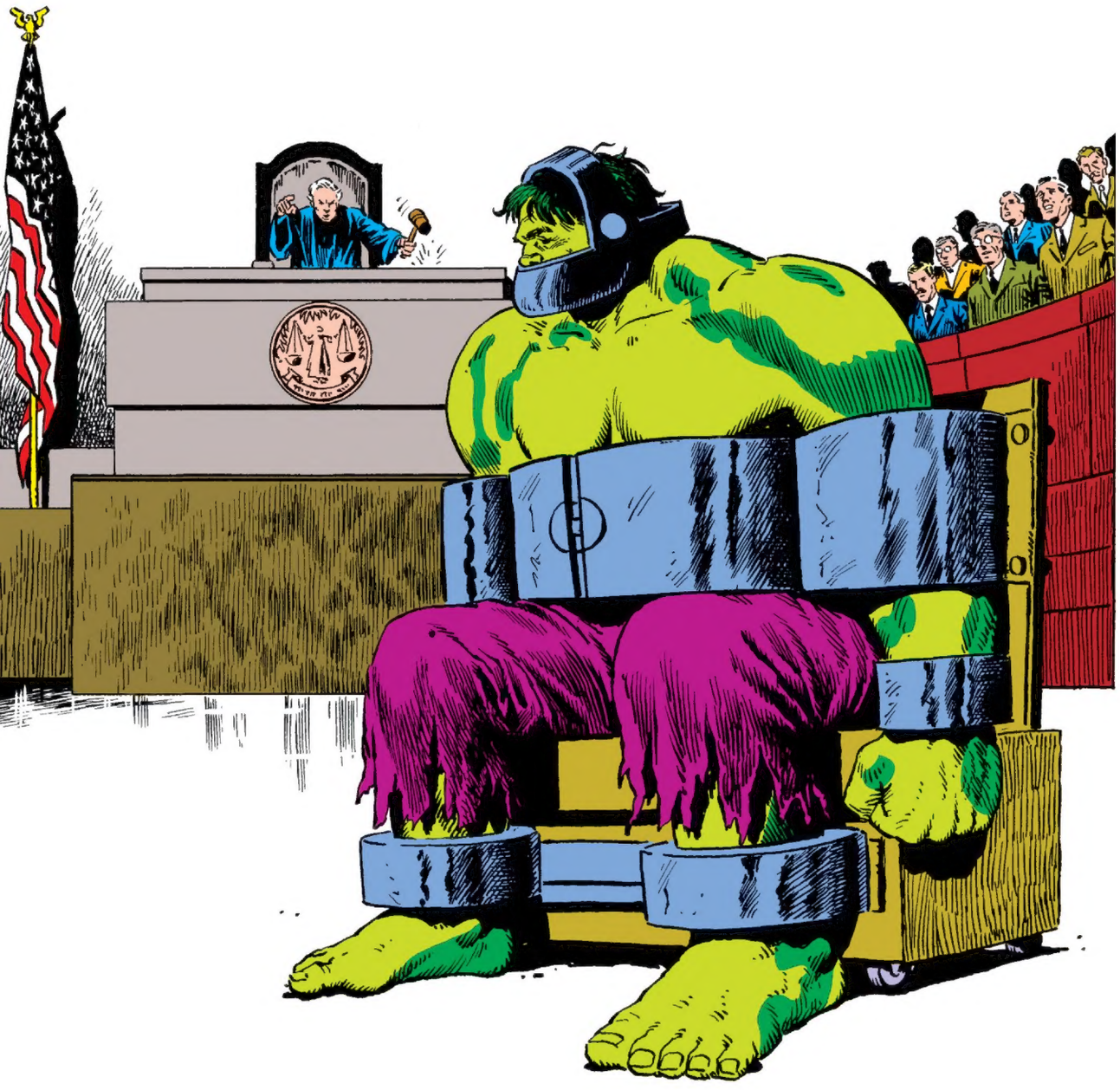

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"Heaven is a Very Small Place!"

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INTRODUCTION
BY HERB TRIMPE

"Seven years later…", the caption would read. Well, yeah, 2007 is the last time I got to write an introduction, and I can tell you this: A lot has happened since then. But enough about me. As I looked through the stories that are reprinted between the covers of this monumental tome, I was reminded of the delight that surged through my synapses at having Mr. John Severin ink my meager pencils. John, a man I idolized as one of the outstanding members on the E.C. Comics' staff, made me look good. No, no, he did. I am not being modest. I really was raised high on the shoulders of giants.

The stories presented here produced during that particular period of time, were probably the most fun comics I have ever worked on. I mean, how good could it get? The return of the quark-sized Jarella, my favorite female in the whole Marvel Universe (or any universe for that matter), Project Greenskin, the Hulkbusters, Havoc, a very cool and underrated character, The Inheritor (ugh, not so good), and "Heaven is a Very Small Place!", a short story that I plotted. Not only plotted, but almost got an award at the annual dinner hosted by ACBA (ACBA? Look it up). But alas, the award wasn't a fishnet-stockinged leg lamp, so who cares?

The first issue in this collection, *Hulk* #145, stands out in my mind for two reasons. Reason one: the movie director character in that story was modeled after a good friend of mine who attended New York University film school at the time. So, using him was payback after he made me a movie star in his student film, *Herb Trimpe, We Love You*. Embarrassingly, the film is still at large, but please, please, don't go looking for it.

Reason two: Project Greenskin and the Hulkbusters' base, complete with detailed diagram, were invented by yours truly, the "trimpdog" himself—the only idea solely thought of, created, and introduced by me, making it my single self-generated contribution to comics. Many people have asked what made me do it? Why the peace symbol layout for the base? My reply? "I have no idea!" Maybe there's an irony in some peoples' minds concerning the use of the peace symbol as the layout for a military base. Some sort of social commentary. Good an idea as any, I suppose, but if only I could come up with profound answers to those kinds of questions, maybe the story of the Hulkbusters would be forever immortalized in a summer blockbuster movie hit.

I've been asked about the writers—who I got along with, who did the best dialogue, who wrote the stories I enjoyed the most. That's kinda like being asked to tell who your favorite kid is. It's a question nobody can really answer, so I always say, they were all great! So much fun, so creative, and I love 'em all.

But there was one thing that Roy, and Len, and Archie, and Gary, and Gerry and Steve had in common, at least in regard to myself. Freedom. The way in which I directed the storyline drew no major complaint from anyone. It was all good. I was free from any micromanagement and control that writers can sometimes apply. Some writers, of course—not all—just in case a writer is reading this.

Same with the inkers. Hard to single someone out. All were professional—Frank Giacoia, Sal

Trapani, Jack Abel, John Severin and anyone else I may have omitted. Like I said, they were all great! So much fun, so creative, and I love 'em all.

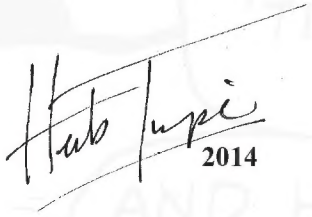
Truth is, and I readily admit it, I do gush over Severin's inks, but since I was a big fan of his way before Marvel, I don't think it counts. Each inker contributed something special. I liked Jack Abel because he had a fine brush line versus my heavy pencils. He made my drawings prettier. Frank, of course, made my stuff look classic like Colan or Tuska, and Sal Trapani was great because he was true to my pencil lines, inking more the way I would have inked the pencils myself. They're all favorites of mine, really. (How's that for being tactful?) Not to be too serious though, I found you can learn something from just about anyone, so I tried to keep an open mind with the people I worked with.

Many fans say I am the definitive Hulk artist. They do. I'm not so sure about that, but the Hulk you see smashing and booming throughout the following pages, as well as the Hulk drawn by Marie Severin and Sal Buscema around that time, was the definitive Hulk character—in my opinion. "Retro," as it might be called by some people. I say, good is good no matter when it's done. That's the Hulk who may have gotten very angry at overly enthusiastic people with guns, but not with people who where nice to him, and he was absolutely crazy about kids and the ladies. He could be a real pussy cat.

Which leads me to the green lady, not She-Hulk, 'cause she ain't no lady, but the aforementioned Jarella. She was the Hulk's true and only love, to be contrasted with Bruce Banner's love affair with the bland and boring Betty Ross. As an aside, I noticed something interesting while going to the myriad of comic conventions my wife Patricia and I have attended over the past eight or nine years. Especially, the last few. Many fans have named a son Logan (the name of some obscure character named "Wolverine" you'll meet a *Masterworks* or two down the line), but not one kid, a girl of course, was named Jarella. So, what gives? But I digress.

Although Jarella and her subatomic world are represented only in a limited way in this collection, I have to say his escapades into her micro world are my favorite Hulk theme. It brings out the best in him and stands as an example of someone who does not fit into the world in which he was born, but finds a world in which he is both respected and loved. O'm'god! Too serious again? "Sheesh," as The Man would say.

I think the main reason why so many fans see the Hulk from those years as the definitive characterization, was due to a consistency in taking a character who was generally a beast—the violent counterpart of the so-called "normal" Bruce Banner—and putting in that beast's heart a glowing soft spot. Softer maybe than any part of Bruce Banner's emotional makeup. The Hulk's desire for Jarella was far more demonstrative, far more intense than any response that Banner had toward Betty. It was that pussy cat again. The Hulk possessed an ironic and complex psychology, but I can tell you one thing. I'd hate to be the one who tried to subject the Hulk to psychological testing—that's for sure!



2014

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK
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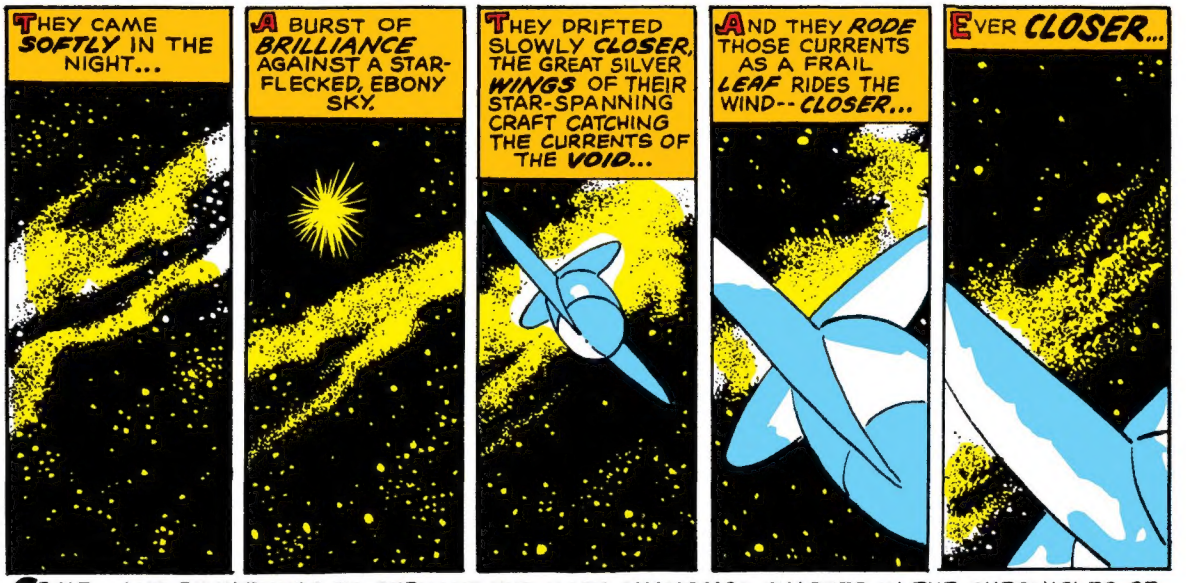
ALL-NEW!
A DOUBLE-LENGTH ACTION EPIC WITH THE MIGHTIEST MAN-MONSTER OF ALL!
CALL HIM COLOSSUS! CALL HIM...
GODSPAWN!

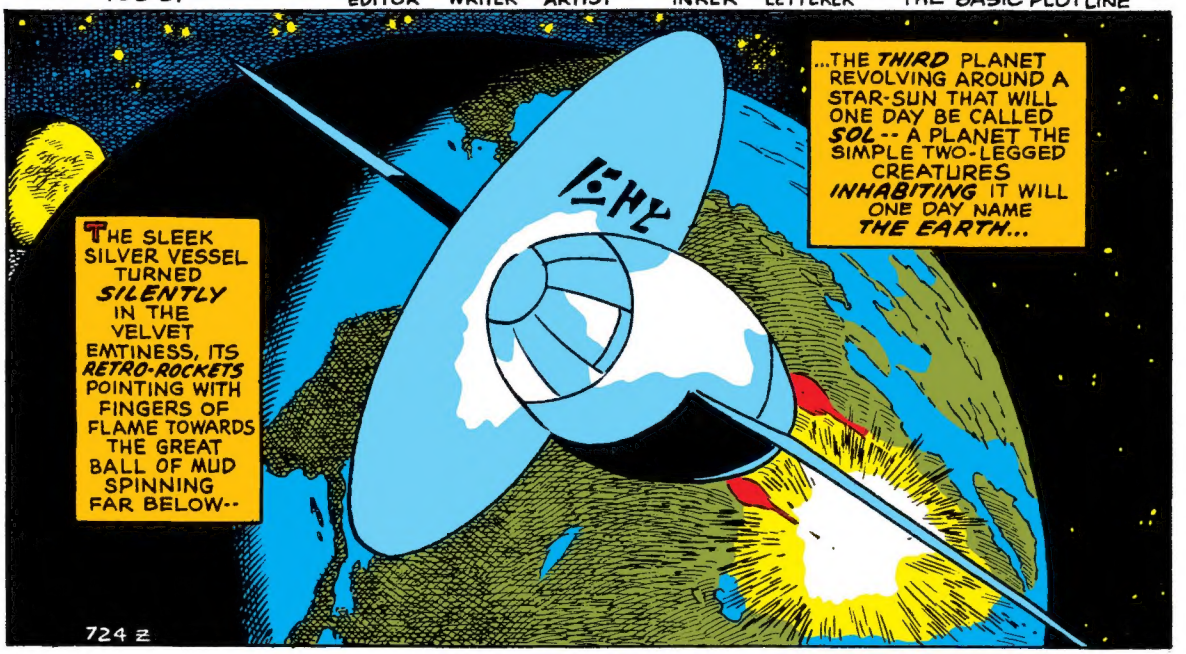
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

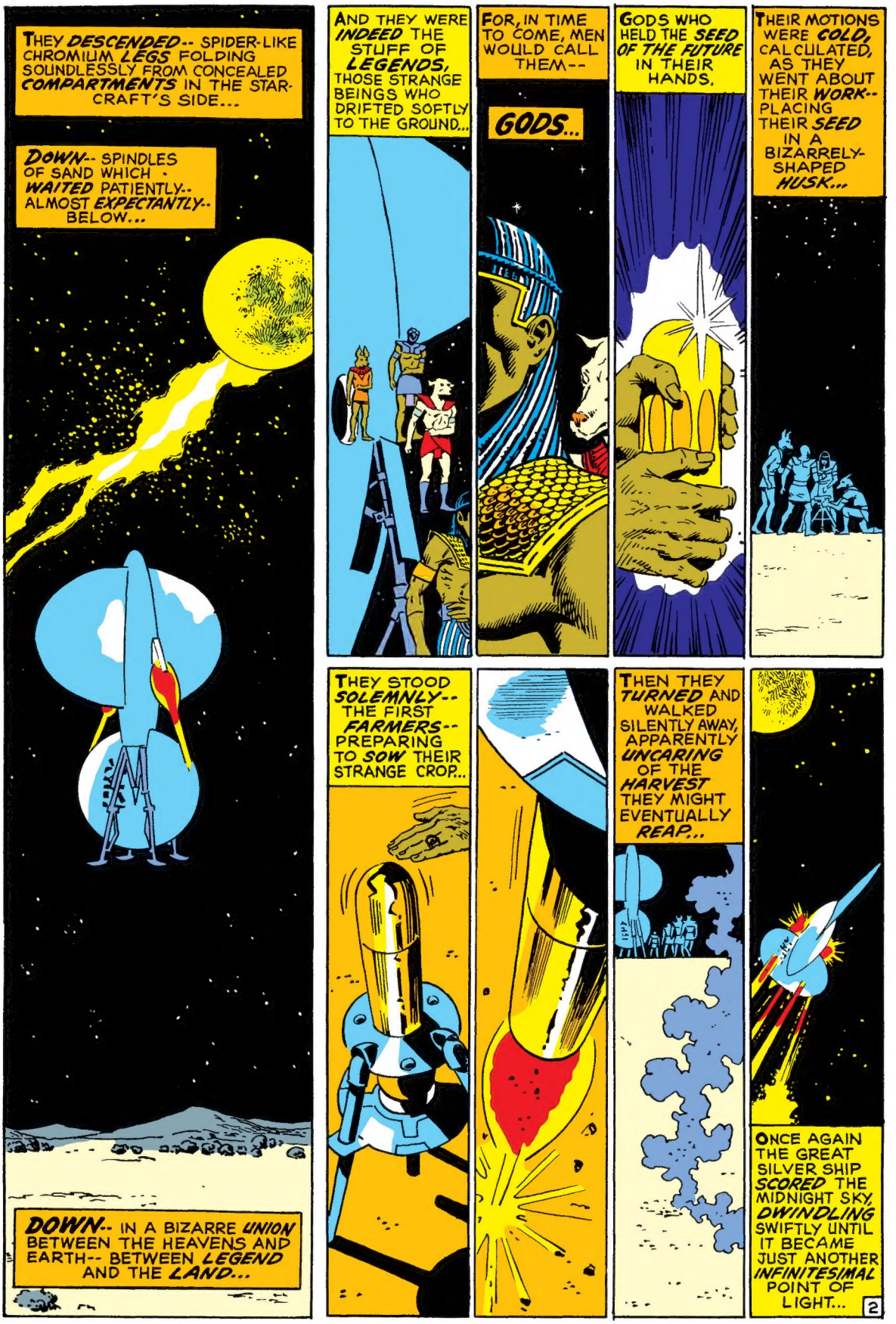

THEY CAME SOFTLY IN THE NIGHT...
A BURST OF BRILLIANCE AGAINST A STAR-FLECKED, EBONY SKY.
THEY DRIFTED SLOWLY CLOSER, THE GREAT SILVER WINGS OF THEIR STAR-SPANNING CRAFT CATCHING THE CURRENTS OF THE VOID...
AND THEY RODE THOSE CURRENTS AS A FRAIL LEAF RIDES THE WIND-- CLOSER...
EVER CLOSER...

COME-- AND BE WITNESS TO PERHAPS THE MOST UNUSUAL CHAPTER IN THE CHRONICLES OF OF THE GREAT GREEN BEHEMOTH WHOM MEN CALL... THE HULK...

GODSPAWN

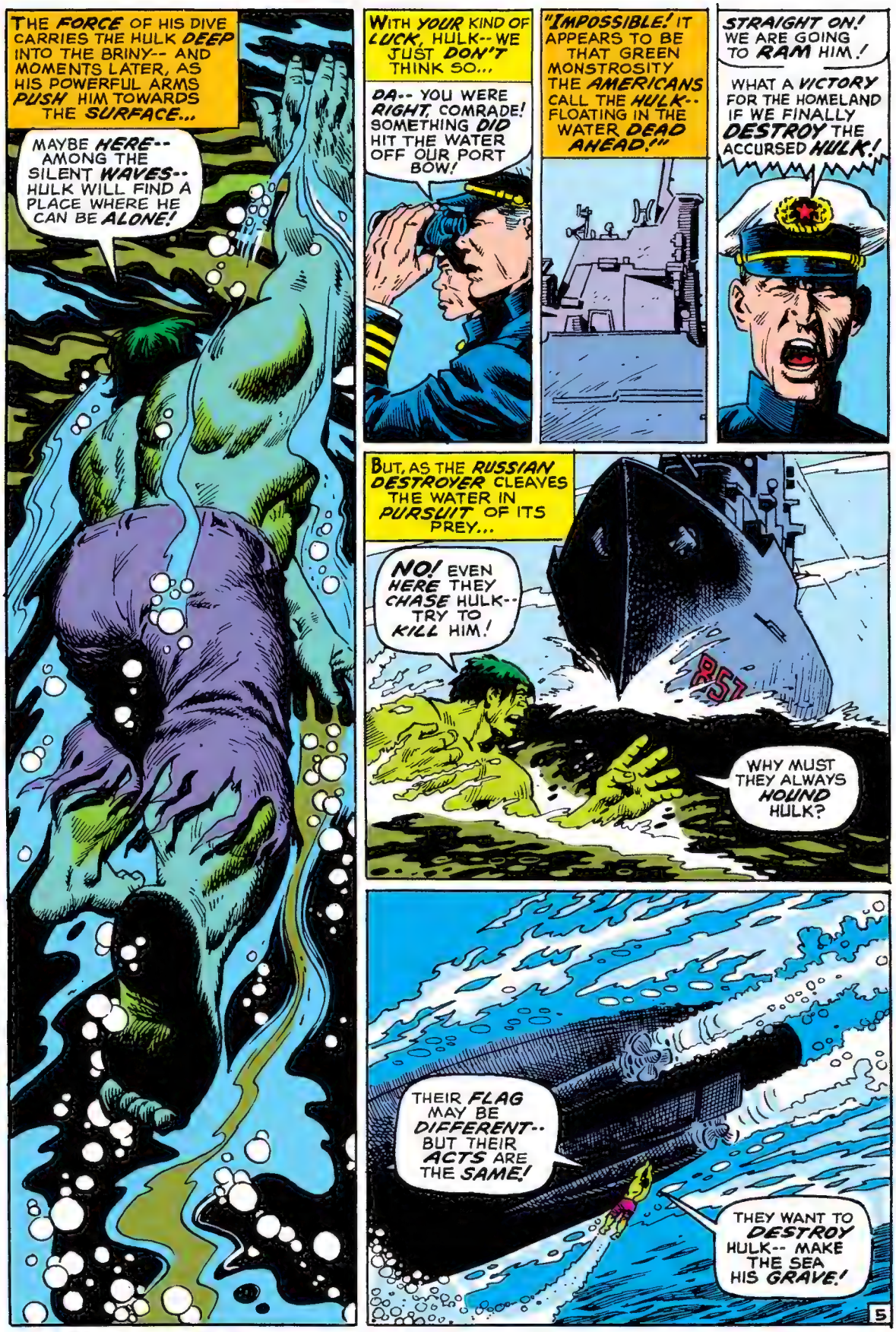
A SPECTACLE OF MAMMOTH PROPORTIONS, BROUGHT TO YOU BY: ✱ STAN LEE EDITOR · LEN WEIN WRITER · HERB TRIMPE ARTIST · JOHN SEVERIN INKER · JEAN IZZO LETTERER ✱ WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO ROY THOMAS FOR THE BASIC PLOTLINE

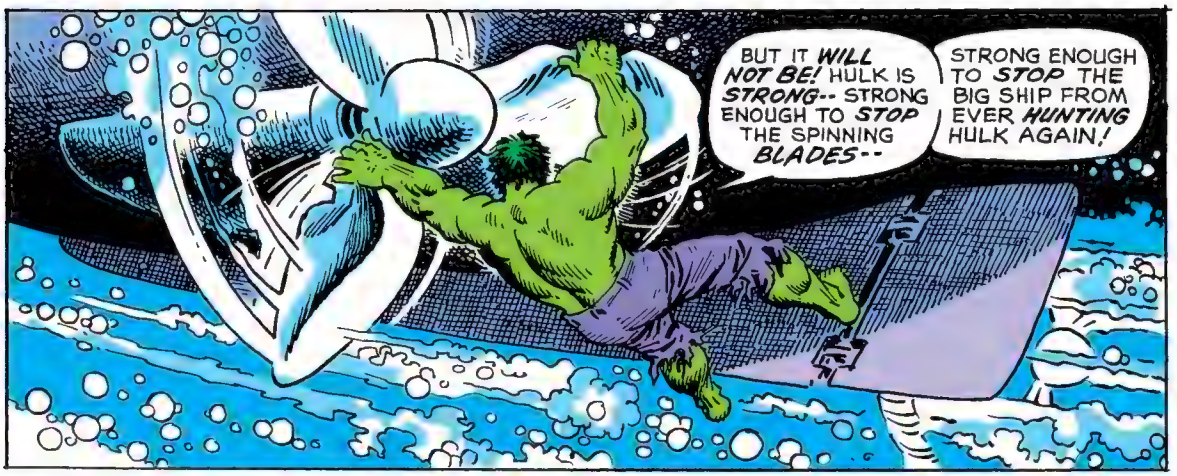

THE SLEEK SILVER VESSEL TURNED SILENTLY IN THE VELVET EMTINESS, ITS RETRO-ROCKETS POINTING WITH FINGERS OF FLAME TOWARDS THE GREAT BALL OF MUD SPINNING FAR BELOW--
...THE THIRD PLANET REVOLVING AROUND A STAR-SUN THAT WILL ONE DAY BE CALLED SOL -- A PLANET THE SIMPLE TWO-LEGGED CREATURES INHABITING IT WILL ONE DAY NAME THE EARTH...
724 2

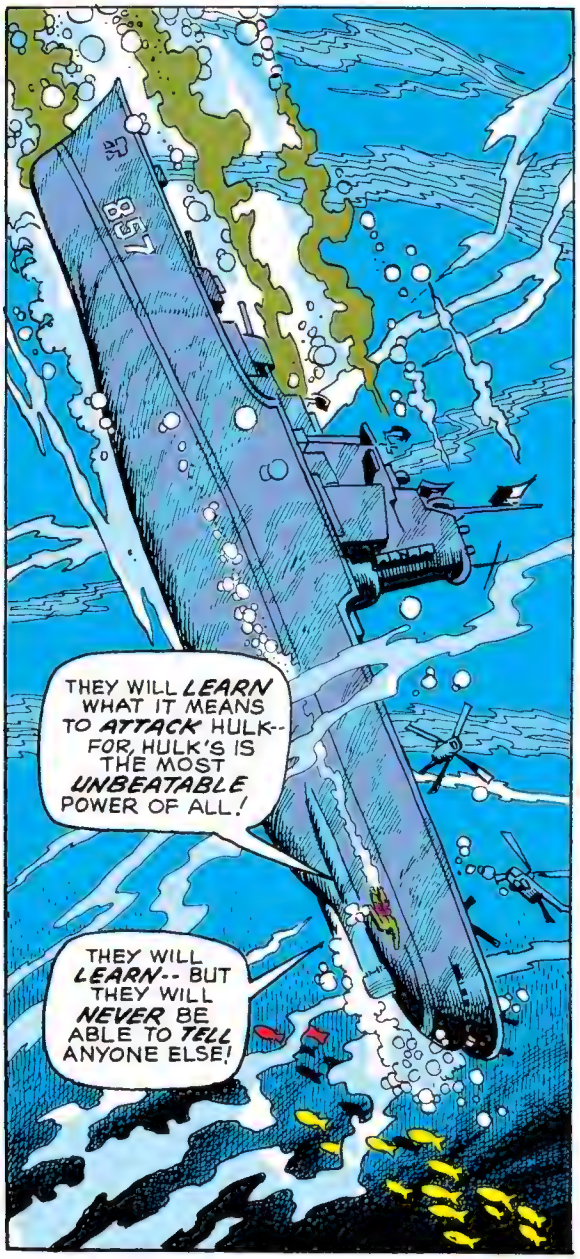

THEY DESCENDED-- SPIDER-LIKE CHROMIUM LEGS FOLDING SOUNDLESSLY FROM CONCEALED COMPARTMENTS IN THE STAR-CRAFT'S SIDE...
DOWN-- SPINDLES OF SAND WHICH WAITED PATIENTLY.. ALMOST EXPECTANTLY.. BELOW...
DOWN-- IN A BIZARRE UNION BETWEEN THE HEAVENS AND EARTH-- BETWEEN LEGEND AND THE LAND...
AND THEY WERE INDEED THE STUFF OF LEGENDS, THOSE STRANGE BEINGS WHO DRIFTED SOFTLY TO THE GROUND...
FOR, IN TIME TO COME, MEN WOULD CALL THEM--
GODS...
GODS WHO HELD THE SEED OF THE FUTURE IN THEIR HANDS.
THEIR MOTIONS WERE COLD, CALCULATED, AS THEY WENT ABOUT THEIR WORK-- PLACING THEIR SEED IN A BIZARRELY-SHAPED HUSK...
THEY STOOD SOLEMNLY-- THE FIRST FARMERS-- PREPARING TO SOW THEIR STRANGE CROP...
THEN THEY TURNED AND WALKED SILENTLY AWAY, APPARENTLY UNCARING OF THE HARVEST THEY MIGHT EVENTUALLY REAP...
ONCE AGAIN THE GREAT SILVER SHIP SCORED THE MIDNIGHT SKY, DWINDLING SWIFTLY UNTIL IT BECAME JUST ANOTHER INFINITESIMAL POINT OF LIGHT...
2

BUT ALL THAT WAS LONG AGO AND VERY FAR AWAY-- CENTURIES REMOVED FROM THE SCENE OF WANTON DESTRUCTION THAT GREETS OUR WIDENED EYES NOW...
THE TIME IS TODAY-- AND WE ARE WITNESSING AN AVERAGE MORNING IN THE HARRIED AND HUNTED LIFE OF THE EVER-BEWILDERED HULK!
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE THE GREEN-FLESHED GARGANTUA BOUNDED AWAY FROM THE TINY KINGDOM RULED BY THE TYRANNICAL DOCTOR DOOM?* HOW LONG BEFORE HE FOUND HIMSELF HERE-- IN THIS SMALL TOWNSHIP ON THE SOUTHERN COAST OF EUROPE-- ALONE AGAIN, AND TERRIBLY FRUSTRATED...?
WHERE HAS HULK LANDED? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHY IS THERE NOTHING HULK RECOGNIZES-- NO SIGN OF HOME?
SCRUNCHH!
IS THERE NO WAY TO STOP HIM?
HE IS DESTROYING THE WHOLE VILLAGE!
FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH SHORTER MEMORIES THAN OL' GREEN-SKIN, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ISSUES #143-144. --STAN.
3

HOME-- WHY DOES THAT WORD ALWAYS MOCK HULK SO? IS THERE NO PLACE HULK CAN CALL HIS OWN--
NO PLACE WHERE HULK CAN FIND PEACE?
NO! THERE MUST BE SOMEWHERE-- AND SOMEHOW HULK WILL FIND IT!
VILLAGE BELOW MEANS NOTHING TO HULK-- NOTHING WORTH REMEMBERING!
AND, AS THE MIGHTIEST LEG MUSCLES ON EARTH PROPEL THE GREEN GOLIATH ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE...
REMEMBER? WHY IS IT ALWAYS SO HARD FOR HULK TO REMEMBER?
WHY IS HULK'S MIND FILLED WITH SO MUCH EMPTINESS?
RRACKK
WAIT-- HULK REMEMBERS NOW! HE WAS HELD PRISONER-- TRAPPED BY THE ONE WITH THE METAL FACE-- THE ONE CALLED DOCTOR DOOM!
AND HULK BEAT DOOM-- CRUSHED HIM LIKE A BUG! THE WAY HULK CRUSHES ANY-ONE WHO WON'T LEAVE HIM ALONE!
4510
BUT IT IS OVER NOW-- PART OF THE PAST HULK CAN BARELY RECALL!
NOW THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING LIES BEFORE HULK!
SOMEWHERE ACROSS THE GREAT WATER, HULK MUST FIND HIS HOME!
4

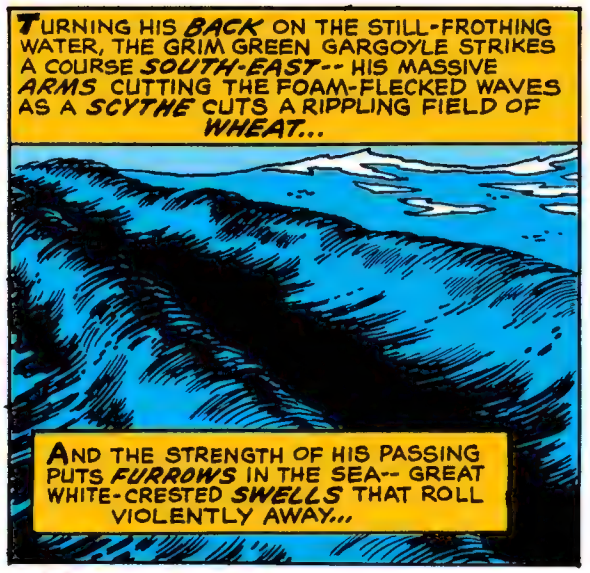

THE FORCE OF HIS DIVE CARRIES THE HULK DEEP INTO THE BRINY-- AND MOMENTS LATER, AS HIS POWERFUL ARMS PUSH HIM TOWARDS THE SURFACE...
MAYBE HERE-- AMONG THE SILENT WAVES-- HULK WILL FIND A PLACE WHERE HE CAN BE ALONE!
WITH YOUR KIND OF LUCK, HULK-- WE JUST DON'T THINK SO...
DA-- YOU WERE RIGHT, COMRADE! SOMETHING DID HIT THE WATER OFF OUR PORT BOW!
"IMPOSSIBLE! IT APPEARS TO BE THAT GREEN MONSTROSITY THE AMERICANS CALL THE HULK-- FLOATING IN THE WATER DEAD AHEAD!"
STRAIGHT ON! WE ARE GOING TO RAM HIM!
WHAT A VICTORY FOR THE HOMELAND IF WE FINALLY DESTROY THE ACCURSED HULK!
BUT, AS THE RUSSIAN DESTROYER CLEAVES THE WATER IN PURSUIT OF ITS PREY...
NO! EVEN HERE THEY CHASE HULK-- TRY TO KILL HIM!
WHY MUST THEY ALWAYS HOUND HULK?
THEIR FLAG MAY BE DIFFERENT-- BUT THEIR ACTS ARE THE SAME!
THEY WANT TO DESTROY HULK-- MAKE THE SEA HIS GRAVE!
5

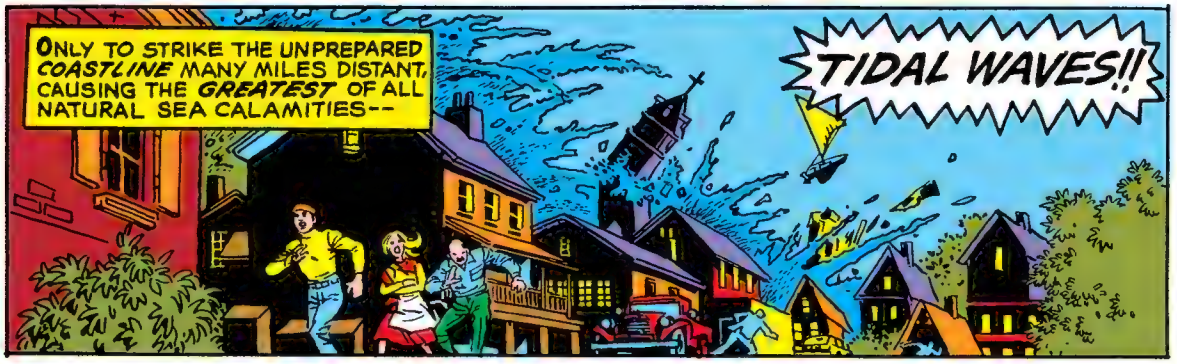

BUT IT WILL NOT BE! HULK IS STRONG-- STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP THE SPINNING BLADES--
STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP THE BIG SHIP FROM EVER HUNTING HULK AGAIN!


THEY WILL LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO ATTACK HULK-- FOR, HULK'S IS THE MOST UNBEATABLE POWER OF ALL!
THEY WILL LEARN-- BUT THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL ANYONE ELSE!

DEEPER, EVER DEEPER, THE GREEN-HUED MONSTER PULLS THE GREAT SHIP, DOWN TO THE CRUSHING DEPTHS-- WHERE SPECIAL MUNITIONS, HIDDEN IN THE SHIP'S HOLD, SUCCUMB TO THE UNBEARABLE PRESSURE, AND...

WHEN WILL THE PUNY HUMANS LEARN THAT ALL HULK WANTS IS-- PEACE AND QUIET?
BUT HULK WILL NOT FIND IT HERE!


TURNING HIS BACK ON THE STILL-FROTHING WATER, THE GRIM GREEN GARGOYLE STRIKES A COURSE SOUTH-EAST-- HIS MASSIVE ARMS CUTTING THE FOAM-FLECKED WAVES AS A SCYTHE CUTS A RIPPLING FIELD OF WHEAT...
AND THE STRENGTH OF HIS PASSING PUTS FURROWS IN THE SEA-- GREAT WHITE-CRESTED SWELLS THAT ROLL VIOLENTLY AWAY...

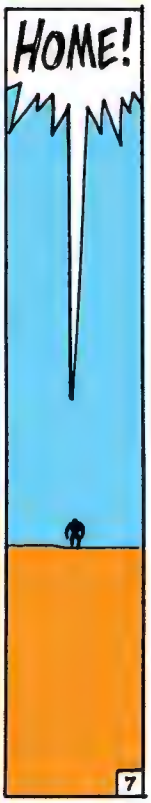

ONLY TO STRIKE THE UNPREPARED COASTLINE MANY MILES DISTANT, CAUSING THE GREATEST OF ALL NATURAL SEA CALAMITIES--
TIDAL WAVES!!

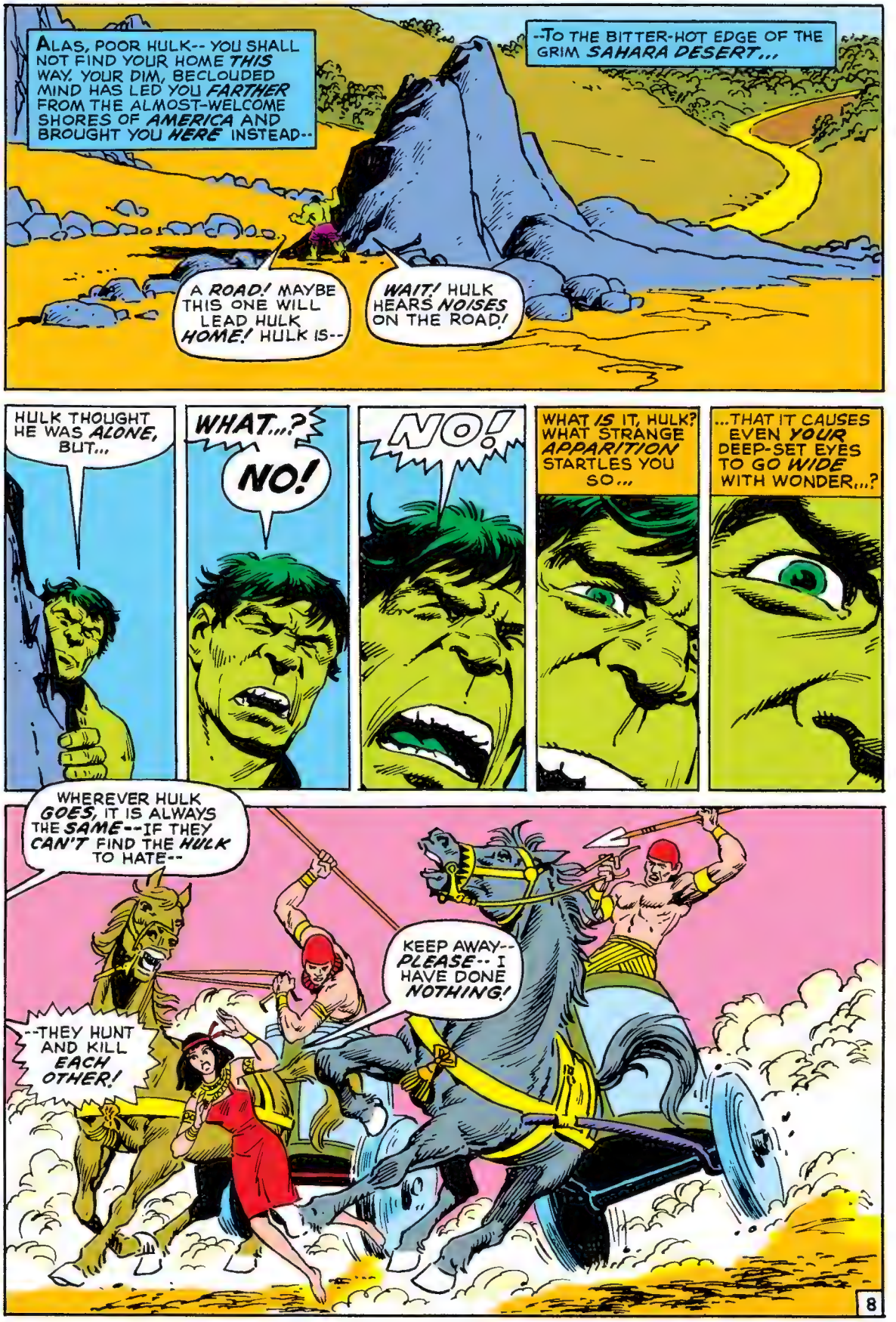
UNTIL, SEVERAL HOURS LATER-- AND COUNTLESS MILES AWAY...
LAND! HULK HAS REACHED LAND ONCE MORE!
BUT WHY? WHY DID HULK CROSS THE GREAT OCEAN?

SO HARD TO REMEMBER -- SO VERY HARD TO THINK!
THERE MUST BE REASON-- THERE IS ALWAYS A REASON!

AH! NOW HULK KNOWS! HE WAS SEARCHING...

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET...


HOME!
7

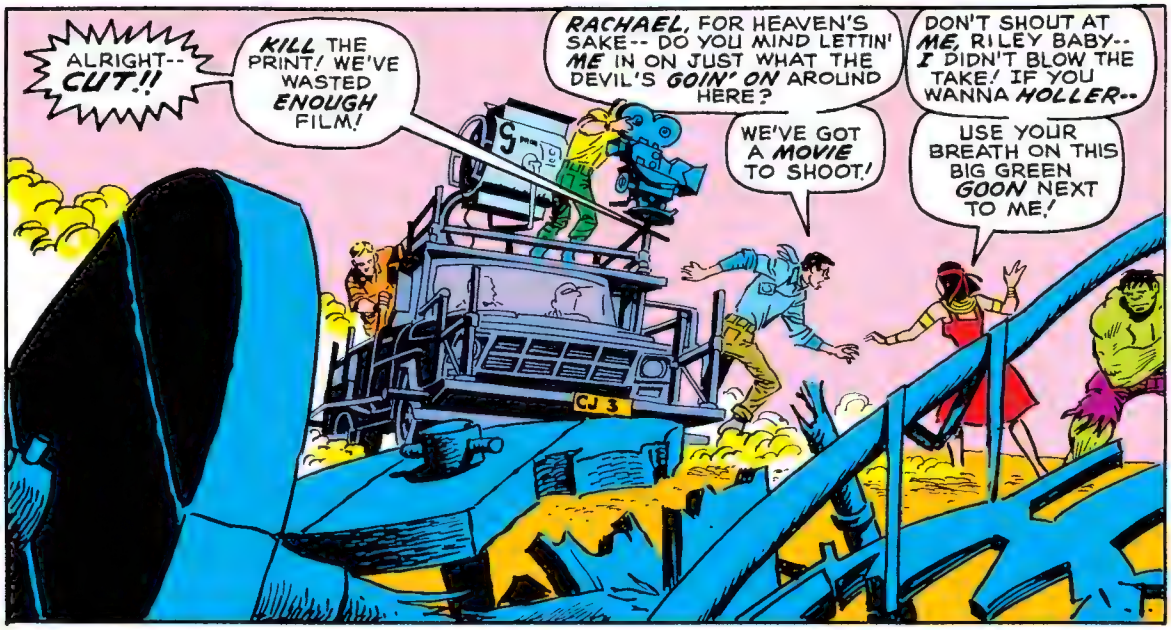

ALAS, POOR HULK-- YOU SHALL NOT FIND YOUR HOME THIS WAY. YOUR DIM, BECLOUDED MIND HAS LED YOU FARTHER FROM THE ALMOST-WELCOME SHORES OF AMERICA AND BROUGHT YOU HERE INSTEAD--
--TO THE BITTER-HOT EDGE OF THE GRIM SAHARA DESERT...
A ROAD! MAYBE THIS ONE WILL LEAD HULK HOME! HULK IS--
WAIT! HULK HEARS NOISES ON THE ROAD!
HULK THOUGHT HE WAS ALONE, BUT...
WHAT...?
NO!
NO!
WHAT IS IT, HULK? WHAT STRANGE APPARITION STARTLES YOU SO...
...THAT IT CAUSES EVEN YOUR DEEP-SET EYES TO GO WIDE WITH WONDER...?
WHEREVER HULK GOES, IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME--IF THEY CAN'T FIND THE HULK TO HATE--
KEEP AWAY-- PLEASE-- I HAVE DONE NOTHING!
--THEY HUNT AND KILL EACH OTHER!

THEN LET THEM! IT IS NOT HULK'S PROBLEM!
HULK ONLY WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE!
BUT THE GIRL-- SO SOFT--SO HELPLESS! CAN HULK JUST STAND--
--AND WATCH?
THERE WAS ANOTHER GIRL ONCE-- A GIRL NAMED BETTY! THIS ONE IS-- SO MUCH LIKE HER--!

NO!
HULK IS NOT STONE!
CANNOT STAND BY AND LET THEM HURT GIRL--
--AND DO NOTHING TO STOP IT!

SMRACK
NOT WHILE HULK IS STRONG ENOUGH TO SMASH THEM INSTEAD!
WHAT--?

BUT HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND! HE--
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE, YOU STUPID GREEN MONSTROSITY! WE SPENT THE WHOLE LOUSY MORNING SETTING UP THAT SHOT--
AND IT TOOK YOU JUST TWO SECONDS TO RUIN IT!


ALRIGHT-- CUT!!
KILL THE PRINT! WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH FILM!
RACHAEL, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE-- DO YOU MIND LETTIN' ME IN ON JUST WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOIN' ON AROUND HERE?
WE'VE GOT A MOVIE TO SHOOT!
DON'T SHOUT AT ME, RILEY BABY-- I DIDN'T BLOW THE TAKE! IF YOU WANNA HOLLER--
USE YOUR BREATH ON THIS BIG GREEN GOON NEXT TO ME!

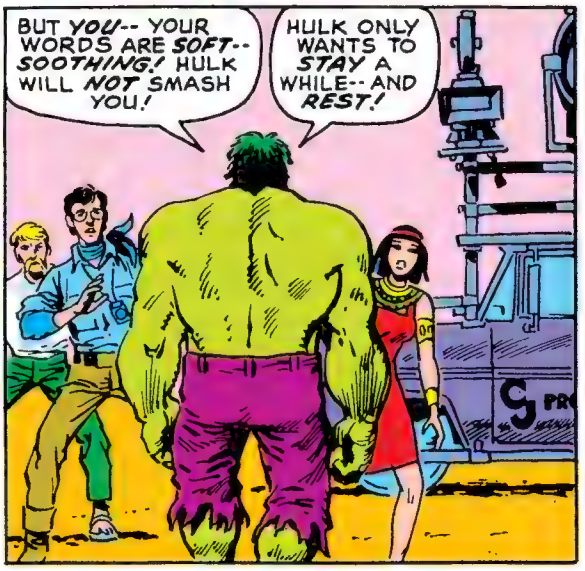
"BIG GREEN--?" YOU LITTLE FOOL-- THAT'S THE HULK!
HE COULD TEAR YOU TO PIECES WITH ONE HAND!
GET AWAY FROM HERE!
BUT HULK ONLY TRIED TO HELP GIRL!

WHY IS EVERYTHING HULK DOES-- WRONG? HULK TRIES TO DO GOOD--
-- BUT STILL HUMANS FEAR HIM!
HULK COULD SMASH THEM ALL IF HE WANTED-- CRUSH THEM LIKE INSECTS!

MAYBE HULK *WILL* SMASH-- AND *END* THEIR FEAR!
NO-- YOU *CAN'T*, HULK! WE'RE *SORRY!* WE DIDN'T *MEAN* TO-- OFFEND YOU!
RACHAEL-- *NO!*

WHAT'S RACHAEL *DOING?* THAT'S THE *HULK!*
HE'LL *KILL* HER!
SHUT UP, BRAD! SHE MAY BE THE *ONLY* CHANCE WE'VE GOT-- TO *STOP* THAT BRUTE FROM KILLING US *ALL!*

DON'T YOU *UNDERSTAND,* HULK?
WE WERE *FRIGHTENED*-- *SCARED*-- EVEN AS *YOU* MUST SOMETIMES BE! WE MEANT YOU *NO* HARM!
NO *HARM?* NO-- *NEVER* ANY HARM!
ALL THE *TANKS* AND *BOMBS* NEVER MEANT HULK HARM? *HAH!*

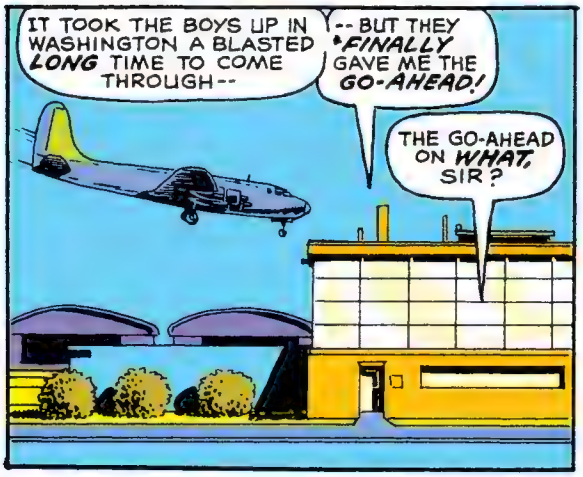

BUT *YOU*-- YOUR WORDS ARE *SOFT*-- *SOOTHING!* HULK WILL *NOT* SMASH YOU!
HULK ONLY WANTS TO *STAY* A WHILE-- AND *REST!*

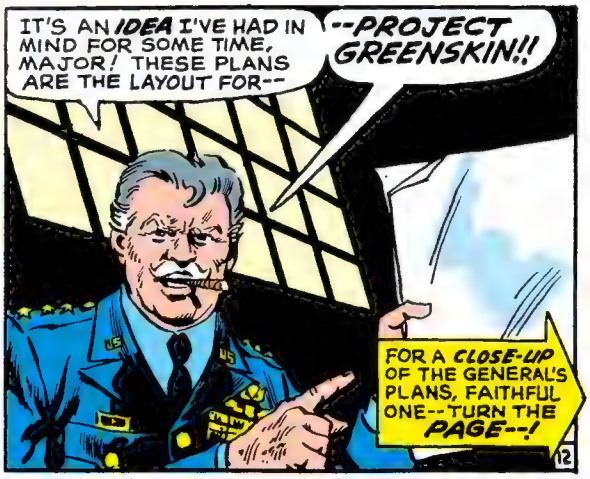
RILEY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
DIDN'T YOU *HEAR* WHAT HE *SAID,* BRAD? THE HULK WANTS TO *STAY*--
AND, BROTHER, HAS THAT GIVEN ME AN *IDEA!*

FIND ME *ERNIE PLATT!* I WANT THIS ROTTEN SCRIPT *REWRITTEN*-- *NOW!*
WE'VE GOT ONE HOPE OF *SAVING* THIS FLICK...
WE'RE GONNA MAKE *THE HULK* ITS *STAR!*

GODSPAWN--PART II

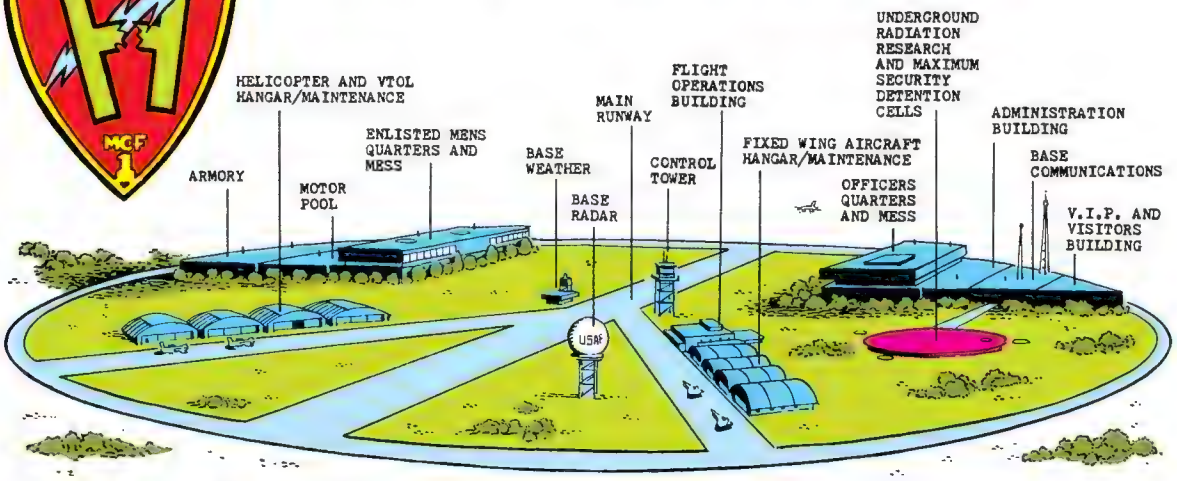
BUT WHILE OUR GREEN BEHEMOTH IS BEING TAPPED FOR HIS CELLULOID DEBUT, LET US TURN INSTEAD TO A MILITARY INSTALLATION DEEP IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND--TO THE PRIVATE OFFICE OF THE HULK'S GREATEST ADVERSARY-- GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS...
YOU WANTED TO SEE US, SIR? BETTY AND I WERE JUST OUT WALKING!
SORRY TO CUT INTO YOUR FREE TIME LIKE THIS, MAJOR TALBOT--
BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING IN THIS SATCHEL THAT JUST WON'T KEEP!


IT TOOK THE BOYS UP IN WASHINGTON A BLASTED LONG TIME TO COME THROUGH--
--BUT THEY FINALLY GAVE ME THE GO-AHEAD!
THE GO-AHEAD ON WHAT, SIR?

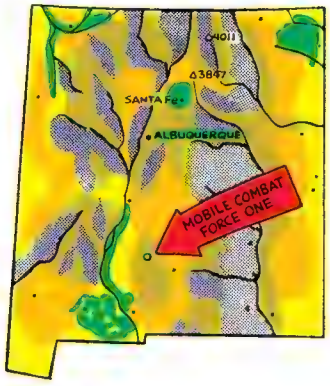

IT'S AN IDEA I'VE HAD IN MIND FOR SOME TIME, MAJOR! THESE PLANS ARE THE LAYOUT FOR--
--PROJECT GREENSKIN!!
FOR A CLOSE-UP OF THE GENERAL'S PLANS, FAITHFUL ONE--TURN THE PAGE--!

PROJECT GREENSKIN

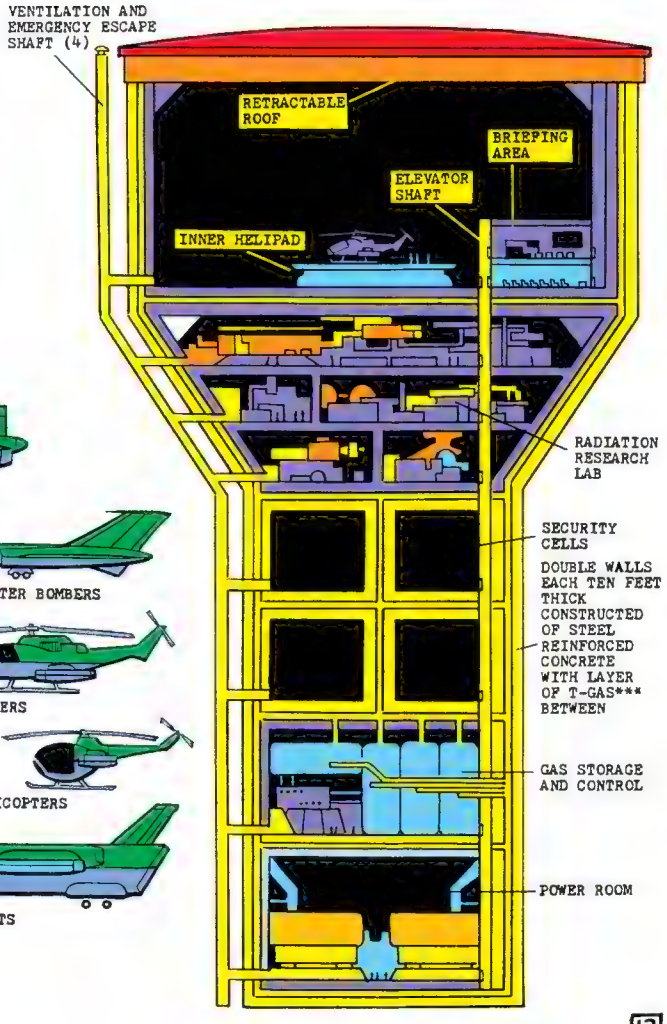
PROPOSED SITE OF MOBILE COMBAT FORCE ONE



NEW MEXICO



CROSS SECTION OF RADIATION RESEARCH AND MAXIMUM SECURITY DETENTION CELL COMPLEX


VENTILATION AND EMERGENCY ESCAPE SHAFT (4)
RETRACTABLE ROOF
BRIEFING AREA
ELEVATOR SHAFT
INNER HELIPAD
RADIATION RESEARCH LAB
SECURITY CELLS
DOUBLE WALLS EACH TEN FEET THICK CONSTRUCTED OF STEEL REINFORCED CONCRETE WITH LAYER OF T-GAS*** BETWEEN
GAS STORAGE AND CONTROL
POWER ROOM

INVENTORY OF HARDWARE*

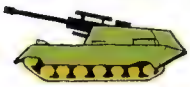
1 SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT

16 SUPERSONIC FIGHTER BOMBERS

100 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS

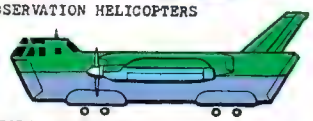
16 ATTACK HELICOPTERS

50 SELF-PROPELLED GUNS



2 OBSERVATION HELICOPTERS

100 ALL PURPOSE BATTLE TANKS



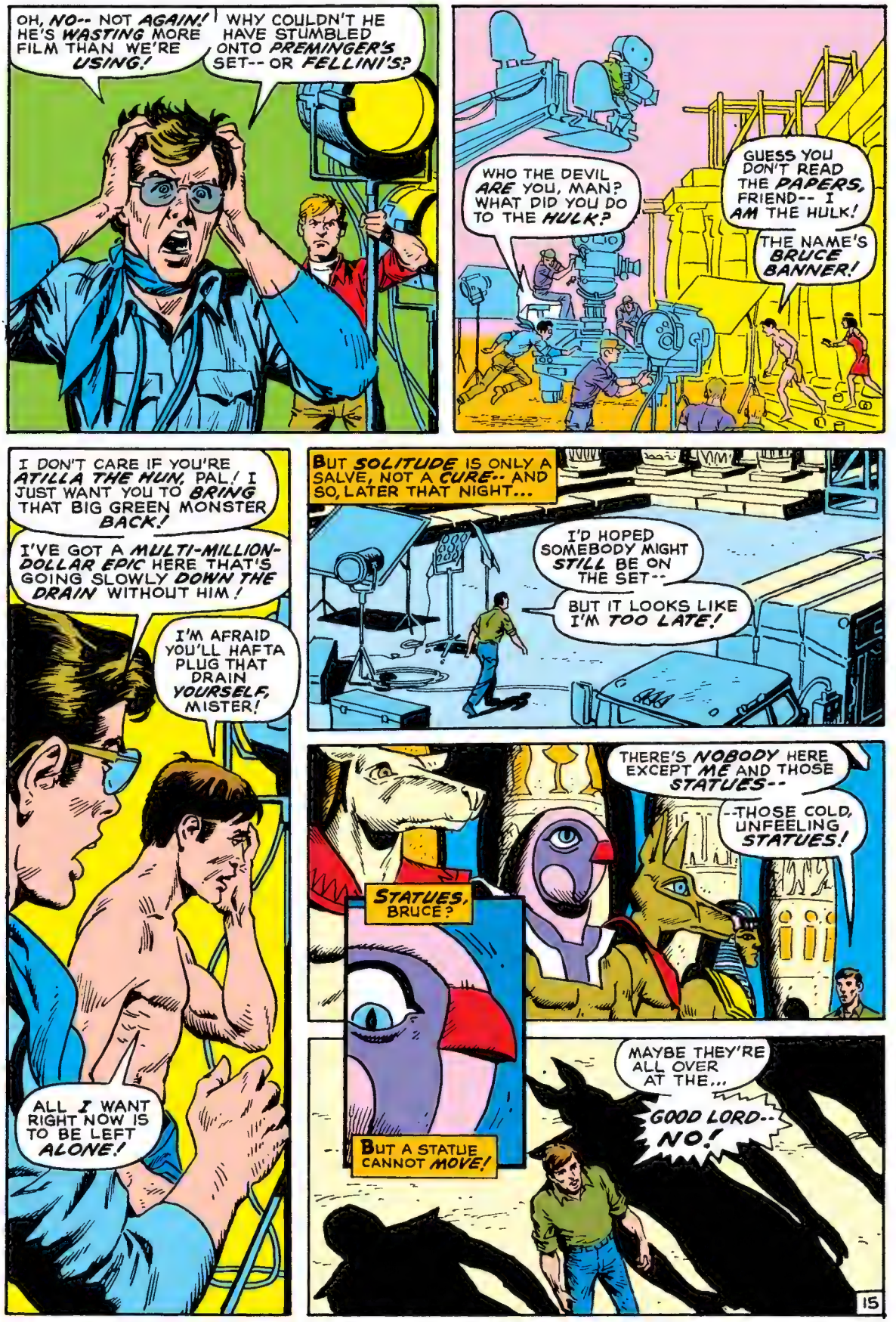
16 VTOL** TRANSPORTS

*ALL EQUIPMENT ESPECIALLY DESIGNED AND BUILT BY STARK INDUSTRIES.

**VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING

***TRANQUILIZER GAS

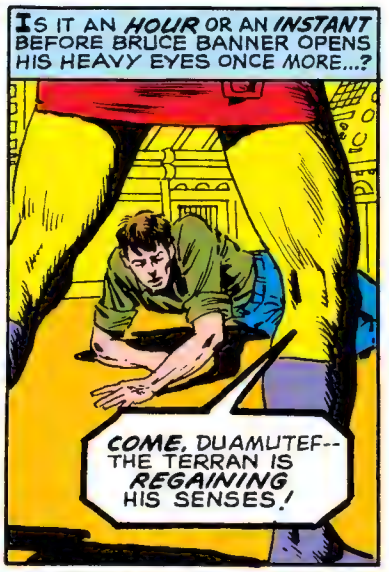
GREENSKIN BASE IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND-- ALL ITS RESOURCES ARE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO CAPTURING AND IMPRISONING THE HULK...
...EVEN TO KILLING HIM IF WE HAVE TO!
US
US
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU KNOW KILLING THE HULK WILL ALSO DESTROY THE MAN I LOVE-- BRUCE BANNER!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CRUEL-- SO HEARTLESS?
BETTY, DON'T--! HE'S YOUR FATHER!
NO-- HE'S A MONSTER-- MORE INHUMAN THAN THE HULK!
AT LEAST POOR BRUCE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING!
B-BETTY--? COME BACK HERE! COME--
BACK THAT NUMBER 3 KLIEG UP A BIT, HARRY! THAT'S IT! WE'RE TRYING TO PICK UP THIS HAM-BONE'S GOOD SIDE...
IF HE HAS A GOOD SIDE!
WHY ARE BRIGHT LIGHTS SHINING AT HULK? THEY HURT HULK'S EYES!
EASY, HULK-- THEY'RE JUST SETTING UP THE TAKE!
HOT KLIEG LIGHTS AND AN AFTERNOON'S SHOOTING-- THE HULK STANDS CALMLY WAITING FOR THE FILM CREW TO FINISH-- AND HE GROWS BORED...
HULK FEELS TIRED...
BUT-- HULK NEVER GETS TIRED! NEVER!
WHY IS HULK'S HEAD POUNDING SO? WHY...
NO!
HULK CAN FEEL IT! CHANGING AGAIN...
...TURNING INTO THE OTHER ONE...
...INTO THE WEAKLING...
...BRUCE BANNER!
BUT WHERE AM I THIS TIME-- WEARING THIS OUTLANDISH GET-UP?
14


OH, NO-- NOT AGAIN! HE'S WASTING MORE FILM THAN WE'RE USING!
WHY COULDN'T HE HAVE STUMBLED ONTO PREMINGER'S SET-- OR FELLINI'S?
WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU, MAN? WHAT DID YOU DO TO THE HULK?
GUESS YOU DON'T READ THE PAPERS, FRIEND-- I AM THE HULK!
THE NAME'S BRUCE BANNER!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE ATTILA THE HUN, PAL! I JUST WANT YOU TO BRING THAT BIG GREEN MONSTER BACK!
I'VE GOT A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR EPIC HERE THAT'S GOING SLOWLY DOWN THE DRAIN WITHOUT HIM!
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAFTA PLUG THAT DRAIN YOURSELF, MISTER!
ALL I WANT RIGHT NOW IS TO BE LEFT ALONE!
BUT SOLITUDE IS ONLY A SALVE, NOT A CURE-- AND SO, LATER THAT NIGHT...
I'D HOPED SOMEBODY MIGHT STILL BE ON THE SET--
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M TOO LATE!
THERE'S NOBODY HERE EXCEPT ME AND THOSE STATUES--
--THOSE COLD, UNFEELING STATUES!
STATUES, BRUCE?
BUT A STATUE CANNOT MOVE!
MAYBE THEY'RE ALL OVER AT THE...
GOOD LORD-- NO!
15

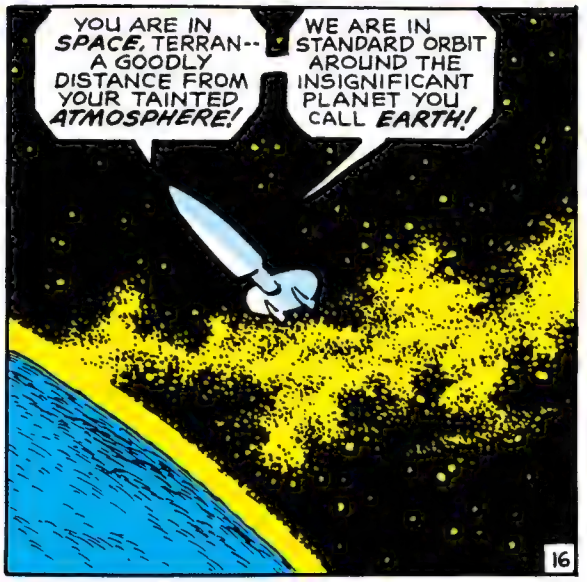
THEY'RE NOT STATUES AT ALL! IN SOME UNHOLY WAY--
THEY'RE ALIVE!!
QUICKLY, MY BROTHERS-- SILENCE HIM-- BEFORE HE AROUSES THE OTHERS!

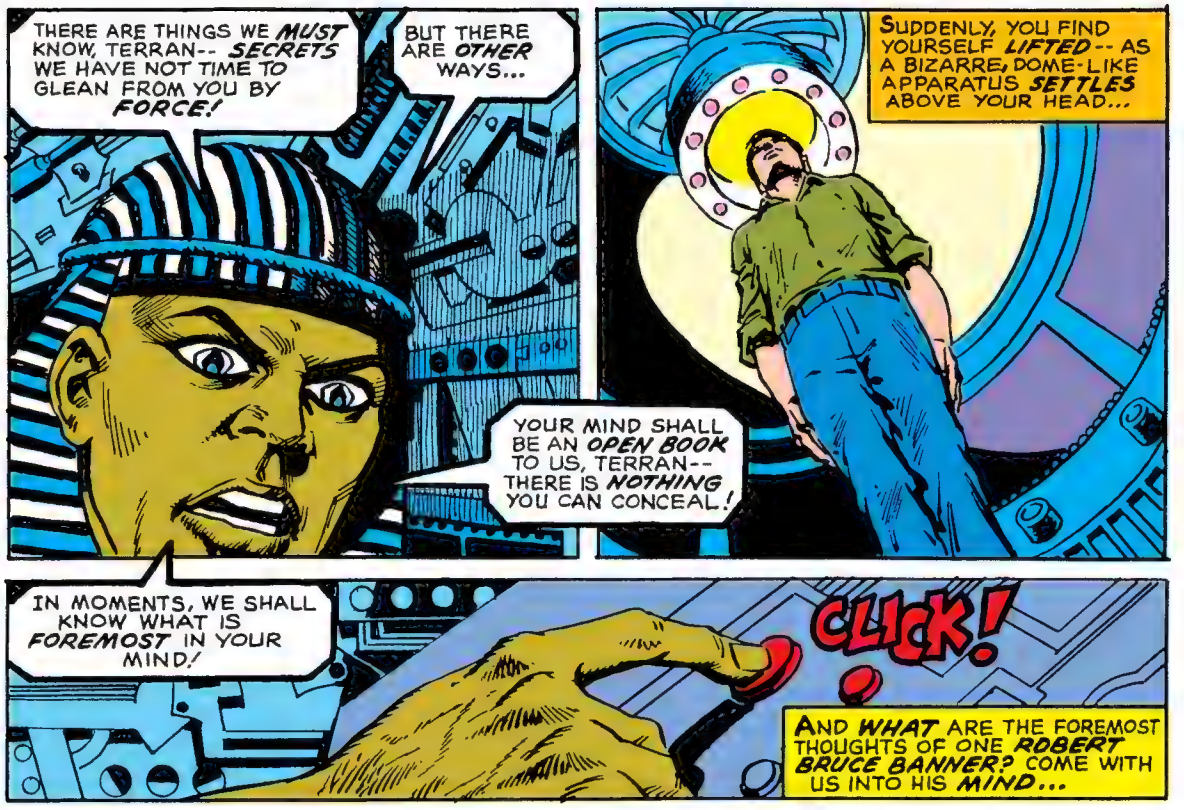
IT IS DONE, IMSET! THE SOMNA-RAY WILL HOLD HIM IN CHECK...

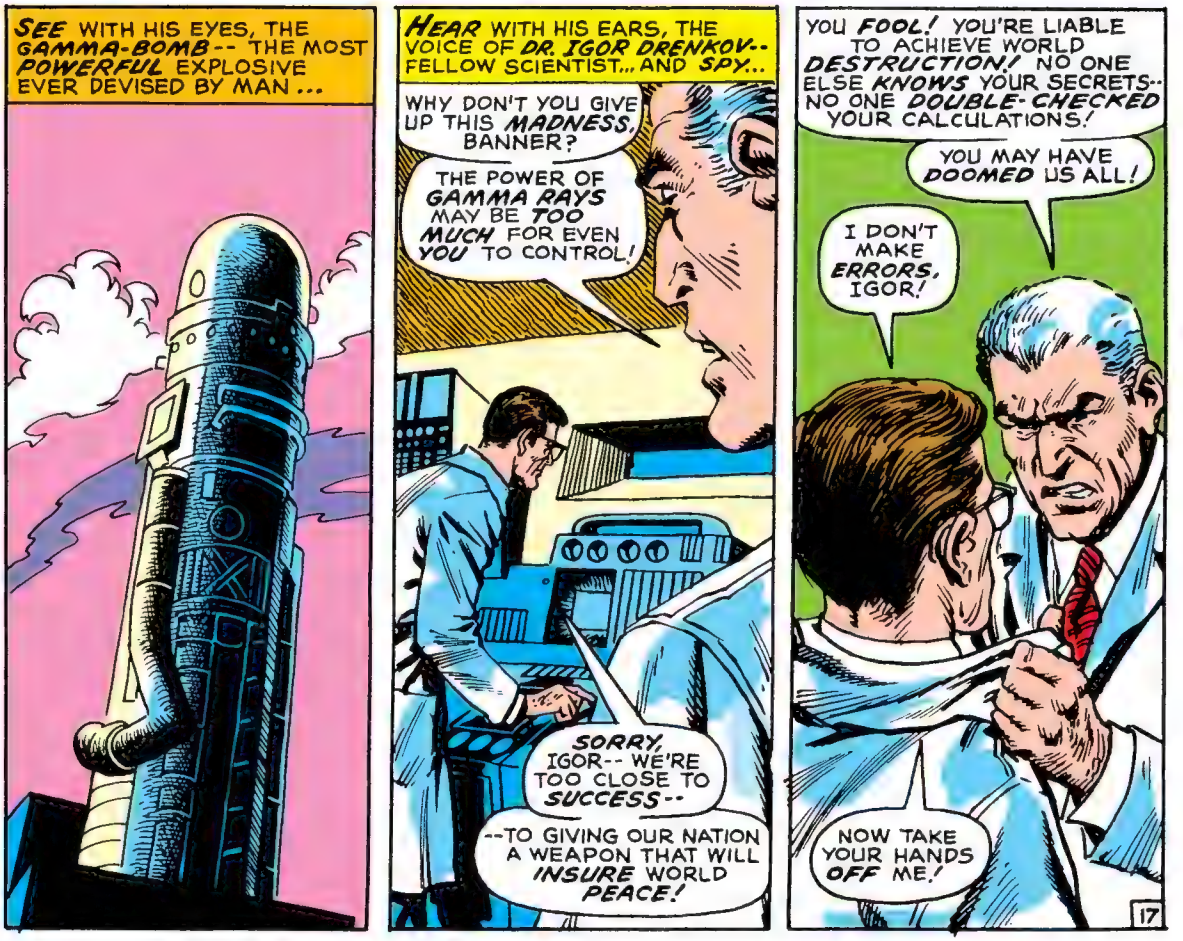
...UNTIL WE REACH OUR DESTINATION!

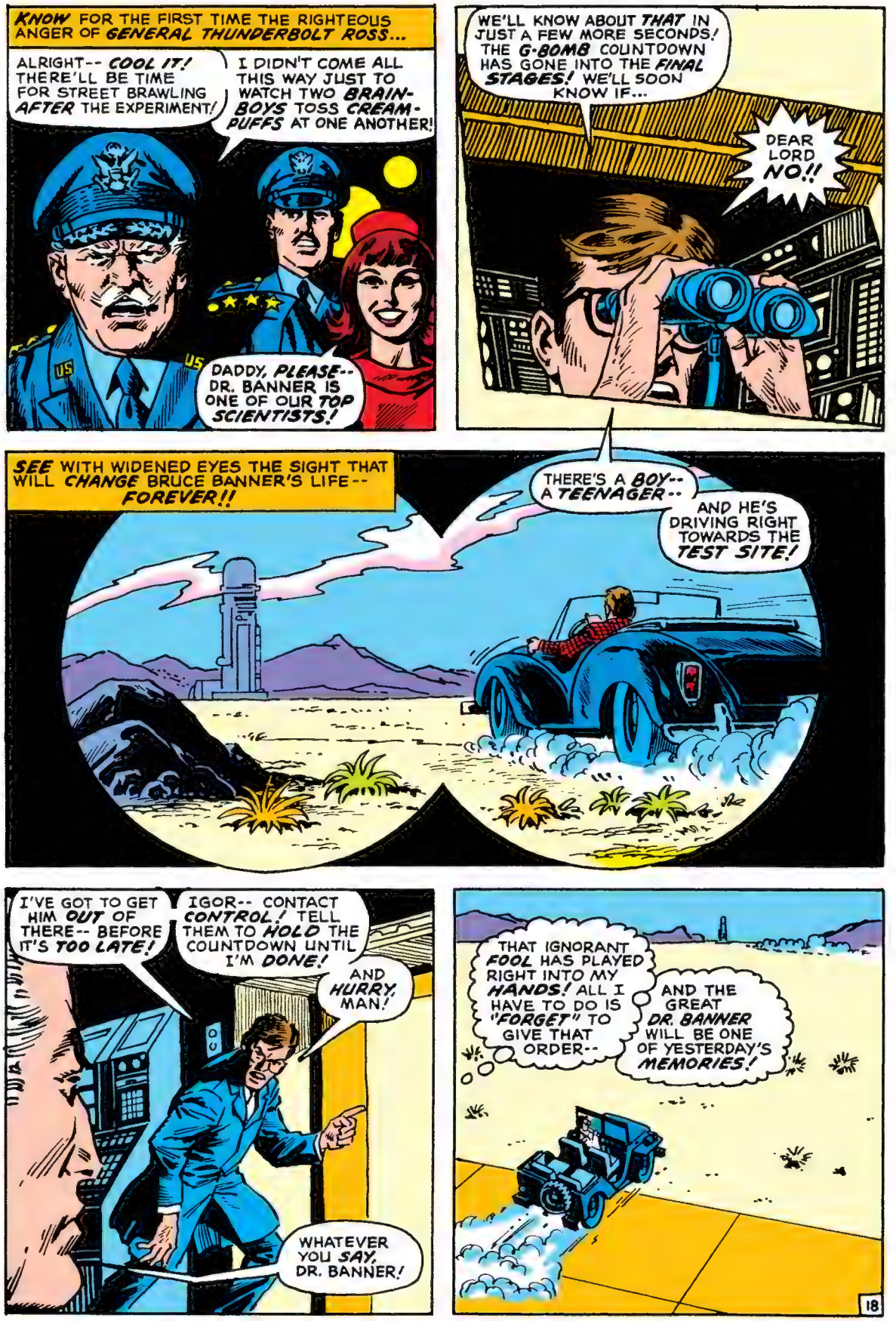

IS IT AN HOUR OR AN INSTANT BEFORE BRUCE BANNER OPENS HIS HEAVY EYES ONCE MORE...?
COME, DUAMUTEF-- THE TERRAN IS REGAINING HIS SENSES!

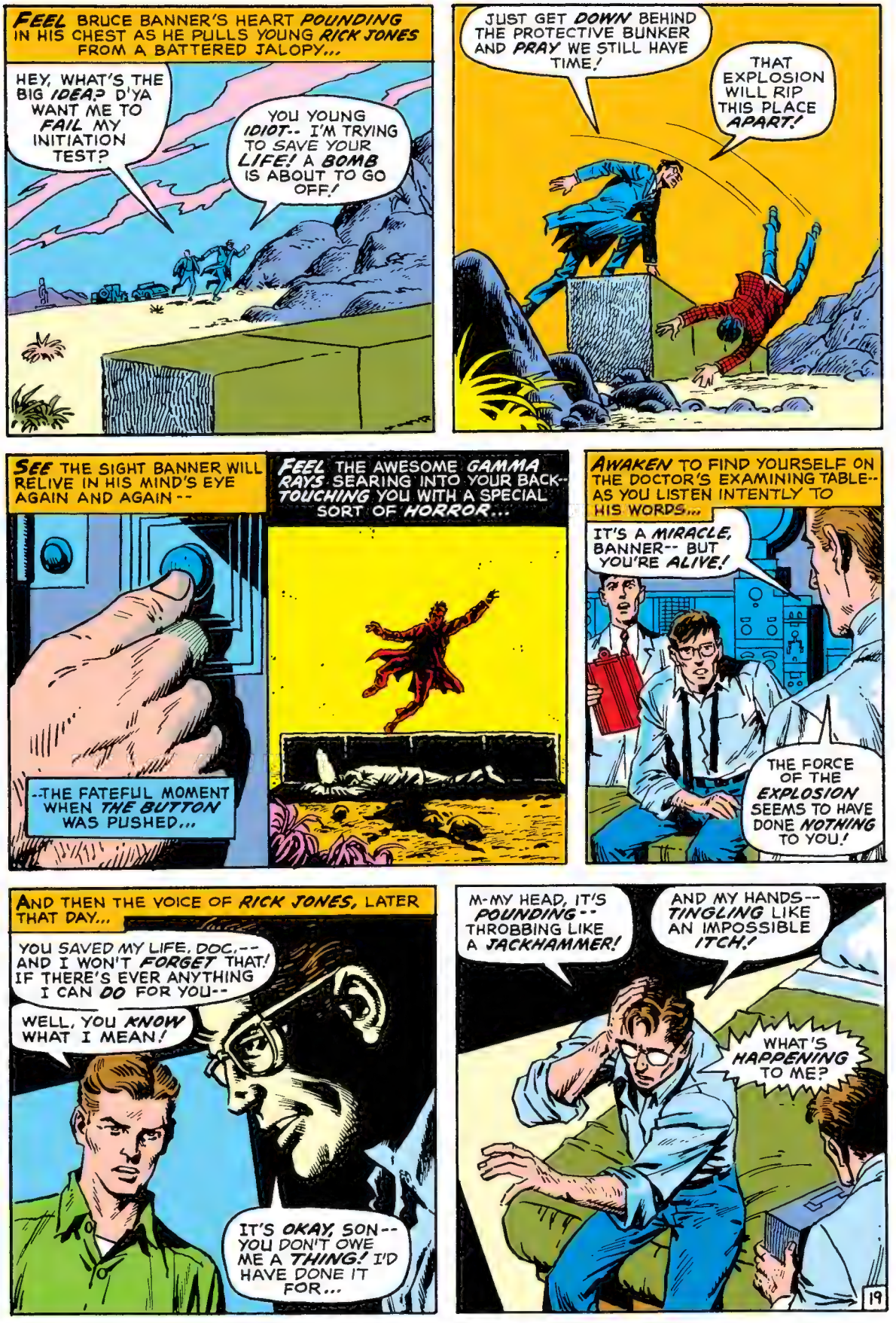
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHERE AM I?
A SINCERE QUESTION-- DESERVING OF AN HONEST ANSWER...


YOU ARE IN SPACE, TERRAN-- A GOODLY DISTANCE FROM YOUR TAINTED ATMOSPHERE!
WE ARE IN STANDARD ORBIT AROUND THE INSIGNIFICANT PLANET YOU CALL EARTH!


THERE ARE THINGS WE MUST KNOW, TERRAN-- SECRETS WE HAVE NOT TIME TO GLEAN FROM YOU BY FORCE!
BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS...
YOUR MIND SHALL BE AN OPEN BOOK TO US, TERRAN-- THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN CONCEAL!
SUDDENLY, YOU FIND YOURSELF LIFTED -- AS A BIZARRE, DOME-LIKE APPARATUS SETTLES ABOVE YOUR HEAD...
IN MOMENTS, WE SHALL KNOW WHAT IS FOREMOST IN YOUR MIND!
CLICK!
AND WHAT ARE THE FOREMOST THOUGHTS OF ONE ROBERT BRUCE BANNER? COME WITH US INTO HIS MIND...


SEE WITH HIS EYES, THE GAMMA-BOMB -- THE MOST POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE EVER DEVISED BY MAN ...
HEAR WITH HIS EARS, THE VOICE OF DR. IGOR DRENKOV-- FELLOW SCIENTIST... AND SPY...
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP THIS MADNESS, BANNER?
THE POWER OF GAMMA RAYS MAY BE TOO MUCH FOR EVEN YOU TO CONTROL!
SORRY, IGOR-- WE'RE TOO CLOSE TO SUCCESS--
--TO GIVING OUR NATION A WEAPON THAT WILL INSURE WORLD PEACE!
YOU FOOL! YOU'RE LIABLE TO ACHIEVE WORLD DESTRUCTION! NO ONE ELSE KNOWS YOUR SECRETS-- NO ONE DOUBLE-CHECKED YOUR CALCULATIONS!
YOU MAY HAVE DOOMED US ALL!
I DON'T MAKE ERRORS, IGOR!
NOW TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

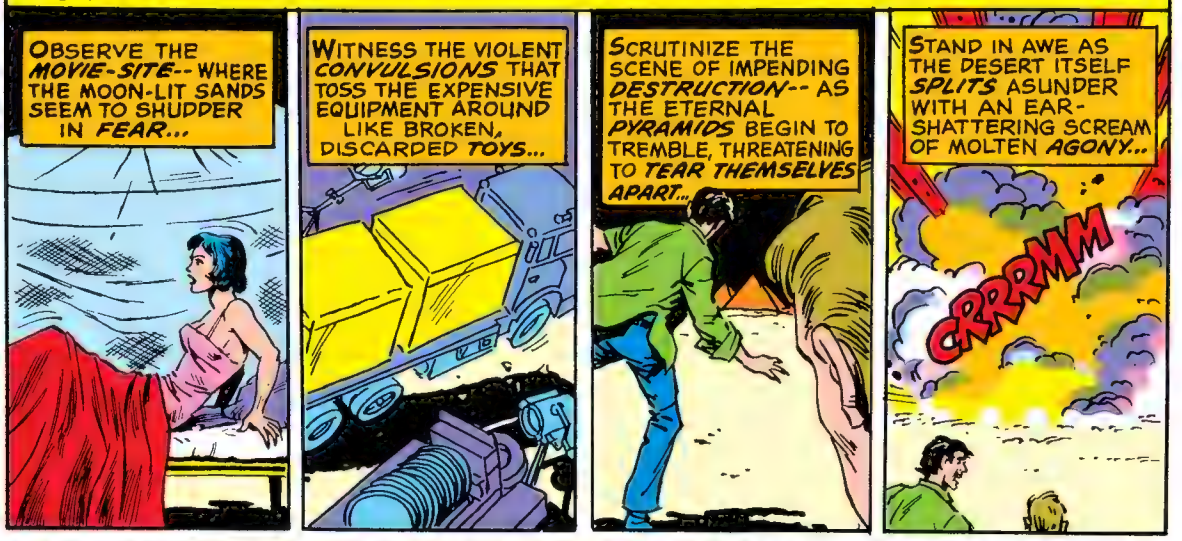

KNOW FOR THE FIRST TIME THE RIGHTEOUS ANGER OF GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS...
ALRIGHT-- COOL IT! THERE'LL BE TIME FOR STREET BRAWLING AFTER THE EXPERIMENT!
I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO WATCH TWO BRAIN-BOYS TOSS CREAM-PUFFS AT ONE ANOTHER!
DADDY, PLEASE-- DR. BANNER IS ONE OF OUR TOP SCIENTISTS!
WE'LL KNOW ABOUT THAT IN JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS! THE G-BOMB COUNTDOWN HAS GONE INTO THE FINAL STAGES! WE'LL SOON KNOW IF...
DEAR LORD NO!!
SEE WITH WIDENED EYES THE SIGHT THAT WILL CHANGE BRUCE BANNER'S LIFE-- FOREVER!!
THERE'S A BOY-- A TEENAGER--
AND HE'S DRIVING RIGHT TOWARDS THE TEST SITE!
I'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
IGOR-- CONTACT CONTROL! TELL THEM TO HOLD THE COUNTDOWN UNTIL I'M DONE!
AND HURRY, MAN!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, DR. BANNER!
THAT IGNORANT FOOL HAS PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS "FORGET" TO GIVE THAT ORDER--
AND THE GREAT DR. BANNER WILL BE ONE OF YESTERDAY'S MEMORIES!
18

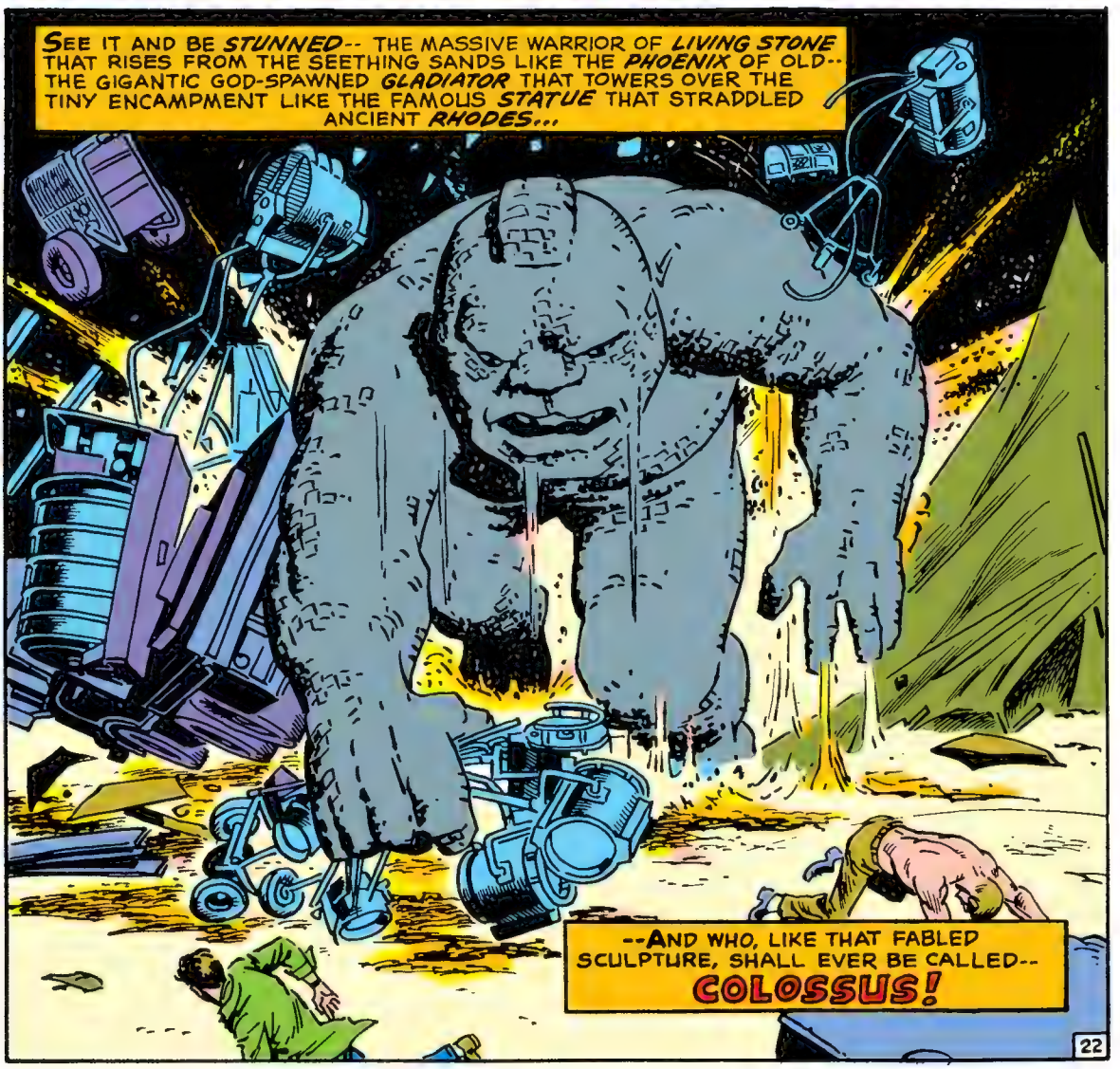

FEEL BRUCE BANNER'S HEART POUNDING IN HIS CHEST AS HE PULLS YOUNG RICK JONES FROM A BATTERED JALOPY...
HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? D'YA WANT ME TO FAIL MY INITIATION TEST?
YOU YOUNG IDIOT-- I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIFE! A BOMB IS ABOUT TO GO OFF!
JUST GET DOWN BEHIND THE PROTECTIVE BUNKER AND PRAY WE STILL HAVE TIME!
THAT EXPLOSION WILL RIP THIS PLACE APART!
SEE THE SIGHT BANNER WILL RELIVE IN HIS MIND'S EYE AGAIN AND AGAIN --
--THE FATEFUL MOMENT WHEN THE BUTTON WAS PUSHED...
FEEL THE AWESOME GAMMA RAYS SEARING INTO YOUR BACK-- TOUCHING YOU WITH A SPECIAL SORT OF HORROR...
AWAKEN TO FIND YOURSELF ON THE DOCTOR'S EXAMINING TABLE-- AS YOU LISTEN INTENTLY TO HIS WORDS...
IT'S A MIRACLE, BANNER-- BUT YOU'RE ALIVE!
THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION SEEMS TO HAVE DONE NOTHING TO YOU!
AND THEN THE VOICE OF RICK JONES, LATER THAT DAY...
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, DOC,-- AND I WON'T FORGET THAT! IF THERE'S EVER ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU--
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
IT'S OKAY, SON-- YOU DON'T OWE ME A THING! I'D HAVE DONE IT FOR...
M-MY HEAD, IT'S POUNDING-- THROBBING LIKE A JACKHAMMER!
AND MY HANDS-- TINGLING LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE ITCH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

ENDURE IT FOR THE FIRST TIME-- THE TERRIBLE INNER TENSION-- AS IF YOUR SOUL WERE TEARING APART...
WHAT-IS-HAPPENING?
THE IMPOSSIBLE TRANSFORMATION THAT CHANGES YOU FROM BRUCE BANNER...
THE PAIN--
THE UNBEARABLE PAIN!!
...TO THE RAMPAGING MAN-BEAST THAT SHALL EVER BE CALLED...
NO--
NOOOO!!!
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!!
AND THEN THE MEMORIES FADE...
WHY DID YOU DO THIS TO ME?
WHY DREDGE UP MEMORIES I'M TRYING SO HARD TO FORGET?
JUST WHO ARE YOU?
WE COME FROM A FAR-DISTANT STAR WE CALL HORUS! MANY OF YOUR TERRAN CENTURIES AGO, WE OF THAT SYSTEM ABOLISHED THE SUICIDAL FOLLY YOU CALL-- WAR!
INSTEAD WE'VE DEVELOPED A VARIATION OF YOUR GLADIATORIAL GAMES! WHEN THERE IS A DISPUTE OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS, EACH OF THE OPPOSING FACTIONS SELECTS A CHAMPION TO FIGHT FOR THEM!
AND THE SURVIVING COMBATANT'S HOME WORLD HAS WON THE ARGUMENT!
ENOUGH, IMSET! WE HAVE FAR MORE IMPORTANT AFFAIRS TO ATTEND TO THAN BANDYING TALK WITH A LOWER LIFE-FORM!
IT IS ALMOST TIME FOR THE GAME TO BEGIN!
20

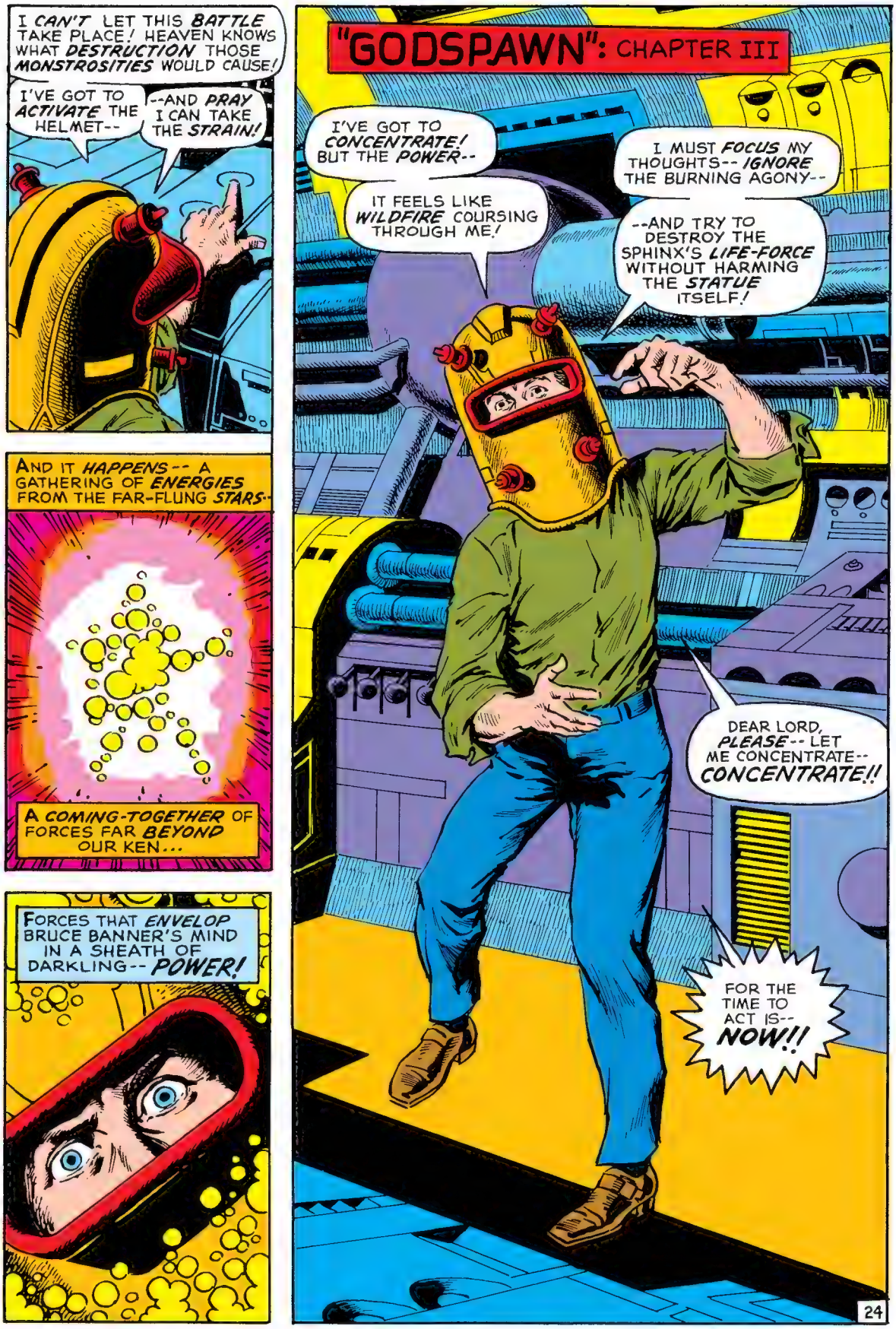
WE HAVE WAITED THOUSANDS OF YOUR YEARS FOR THIS DAY, TERRAN-- THE DAY WHEN THE SEEDS WE PLANTED WOULD REACH THEIR MATURITY!
QEBEHSENUF WILL STAY HERE-- TO MONITOR THE GAME WITH THE CEREBRO-DESTRUCT-MECHANISM!
WE GO TO THE JUDGMENT ROOM--
--TO AWAIT A WINNER!
AND, AS THE STACCATO SOUND OF FOOTFALLS FADE SOFTLY AWAY...
JUST SIT QUIETLY, TERRAN-- IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON!
IT'LL BE OVER, ALL RIGHT!
THEIR "GAME" MAY DECIMATE HALF THE EARTH!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! BUT WHAT?
WAITA-MINNIT! WHILE THAT HELMET IS OBSCURING HIS VISION...
I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE!
AND IT HAD BETTER BE GOOD...
BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE I'LL GET!
WHAT..?
NOT THE SOMNA-RAY-- NO!
I MUST MONITOR THE GAME...
VLOPP
WELL, HE'S OUT FOR THE COUNT-- BUT WHAT NOW? I'D BETTER...
WAIT! THAT HELMET-- IT MUST BE THE ANSWER!
QUICKLY, BRUCE REMOVES THE HELMET AND...
THAT ALIEN CALLED THIS THING A DESTRUCT-MECHANISM!
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIGURE OUT HOW IT WORKS!
21

PEER THROUGH BRUCE BANNER'S ANGUISHED EYES ONCE MORE-- THROUGH THE FINELY-POLISHED LENS OF THE BIZARRE C-D-M HELMET-- AT A SIGHT THAT WILL SEAR ITSELF INTO THE VERY FIBER OF YOUR MIND...


OBSERVE THE MOVIE-SITE-- WHERE THE MOON-LIT SANDS SEEM TO SHUDDER IN FEAR...
WITNESS THE VIOLENT CONVULSIONS THAT TOSS THE EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT AROUND LIKE BROKEN, DISCARDED TOYS...
SCRUTINIZE THE SCENE OF IMPENDING DESTRUCTION-- AS THE ETERNAL PYRAMIDS BEGIN TO TREMBLE, THREATENING TO TEAR THEMSELVES APART...
STAND IN AWE AS THE DESERT ITSELF SPLITS ASUNDER WITH AN EAR-SHATTERING SCREAM OF MOLTEN AGONY...
CRRRMM


SEE IT AND BE STUNNED-- THE MASSIVE WARRIOR OF LIVING STONE THAT RISES FROM THE SEETHING SANDS LIKE THE PHOENIX OF OLD-- THE GIGANTIC GOD-SPAWNED GLADIATOR THAT TOWERS OVER THE TINY ENCAMPMENT LIKE THE FAMOUS STATUE THAT STRADDLED ANCIENT RHODES...
--AND WHO, LIKE THAT FABLED SCULPTURE, SHALL EVER BE CALLED-- COLOSSUS!

I'M TOO LATE! THE FIRST WARRIOR'S ALREADY COME TO LIFE!
BUT WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE?
I'VE GOT TO CHANGE THE FOCUS OF THIS HELMET-- TRY TO LOCATE THE SECOND COMBATANT--
--WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME TO STOP IT!
I'VE DONE IT! SOMETHING ELSE IS BLURRING INTO VIEW ON THE SCREEN!
BUT WHY THIS AREA? THERE'S NOTHING EVEN MOVING DOWN THERE!
WAIT--! SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE SCENE! IT'S ALMOST AS IF...
WHAT...? BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
OR DOES IT? PERHAPS IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE! AFTER ALL, IF THEY COULD PLANT ONE OF THEIR SEEDS BENEATH THE GROUND...
WHY COULDN'T THEY HAVE PLANTED THE OTHER ONE ABOVE-- TO BE NURTURED AND FED BY THE WARMING RAYS OF THE LIFE-GIVING SUN?
WHY COULDN'T THEIR OTHER STONE-CAST WARRIOR BE THE LEGEND-LADEN-- SPHINX!!


I CAN'T LET THIS BATTLE TAKE PLACE! HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT DESTRUCTION THOSE MONSTROSITIES WOULD CAUSE!
I'VE GOT TO ACTIVATE THE HELMET--
--AND PRAY I CAN TAKE THE STRAIN!
AND IT HAPPENS-- A GATHERING OF ENERGIES FROM THE FAR-FLUNG STARS--
A COMING-TOGETHER OF FORCES FAR BEYOND OUR KEN...
FORCES THAT ENVELOP BRUCE BANNER'S MIND IN A SHEATH OF DARKLING-- POWER!
"GODSPAWN": CHAPTER III
I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE! BUT THE POWER--
IT FEELS LIKE WILDFIRE COURSING THROUGH ME!
I MUST FOCUS MY THOUGHTS-- IGNORE THE BURNING AGONY--
--AND TRY TO DESTROY THE SPHINX'S LIFE-FORCE WITHOUT HARMING THE STATUE ITSELF!
DEAR LORD, PLEASE-- LET ME CONCENTRATE-- CONCENTRATE!!
FOR THE TIME TO ACT IS-- NOW!!

WHAT..? THE TERRAN-- HE HAS THE DESTRUCT-HELMET! STOP HIM BEFORE...
IT'S TOO LATE, SPACE-FACE--
MUCH TOO LATE!

HE IS RIGHT, MY BROTHERS--
LOOK AT THE SENSOR-SCREEN!

HE HAS USED THE HELMET TO NULLIFY ONE OF THE COMBATANTS' LIFE-FORCE...

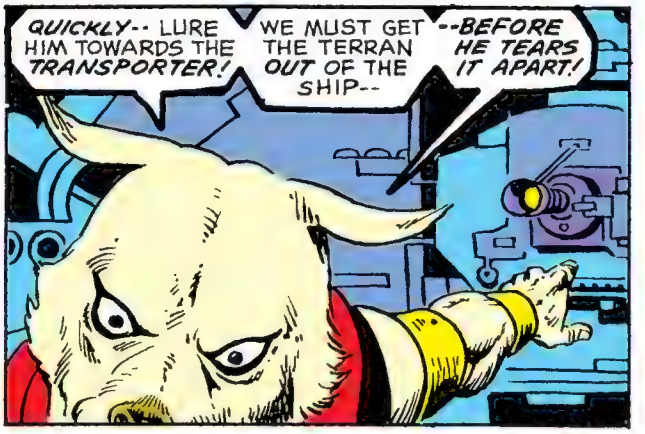
ALREADY, THE CHANGE BEGINS-- THE WARRIOR SETTLES BACK INTO THE SAND--
WHERE IT WILL REMAIN FOR ALL ETERNITY...

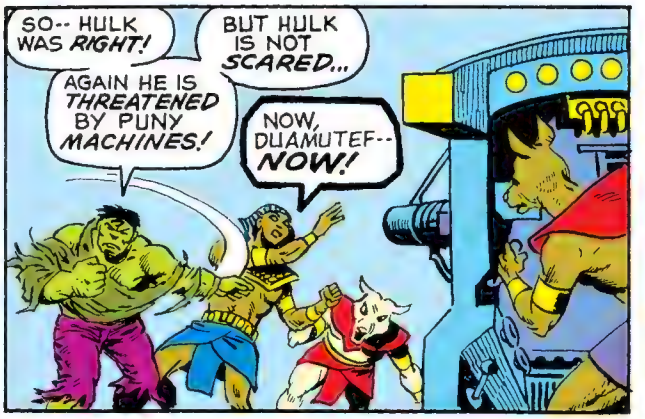
A CREATURE OF UNFEELING, LIFELESS STONE!

IN A MOMENT'S TIME, YOU HAVE DESTROYED THE WORK OF CENTURIES, TERRAN! WE SHALL...
WAIT! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU, TERRAN?

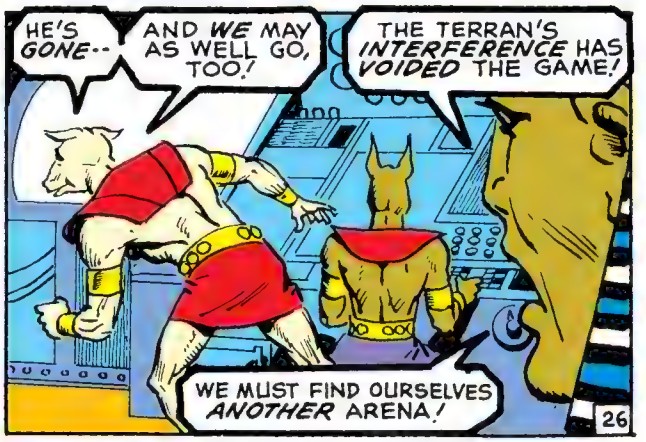
MY NAME IS NOT "TERRAN", STRANGE ONE!
MY NAME IS-- HULK!!

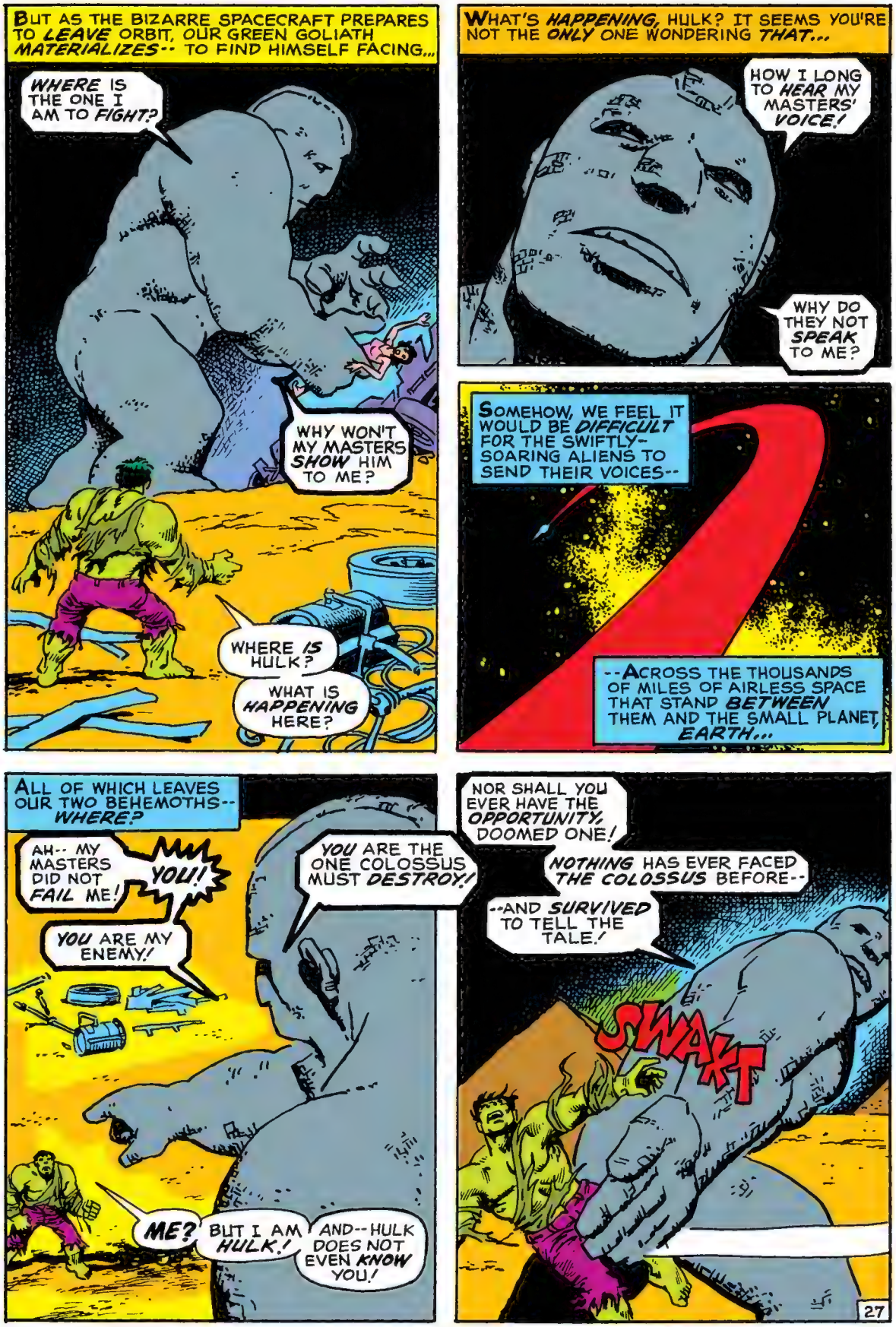
DAZEDLY, THE GREEN BEHEMOTH LOOKS AROUND HIM, HIS BECLOUDED MIND STRUGGLING TO RECALL HOW HE CAME TO BE IN THIS STRANGE PLACE--
NEVER REALIZING THAT HIS APPEARANCE IS THE PRODUCT OF BRUCE BANNER'S STRAIN...
TERRAN-- STOP!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
BUT HULK DOES! WHEREVER HULK GOES, THEY TRY TO HURT HIM-- OR KILL HIM!
CRUMP!
BUT NOT HERE! HULK WILL SMASH YOU ALL FIRST!

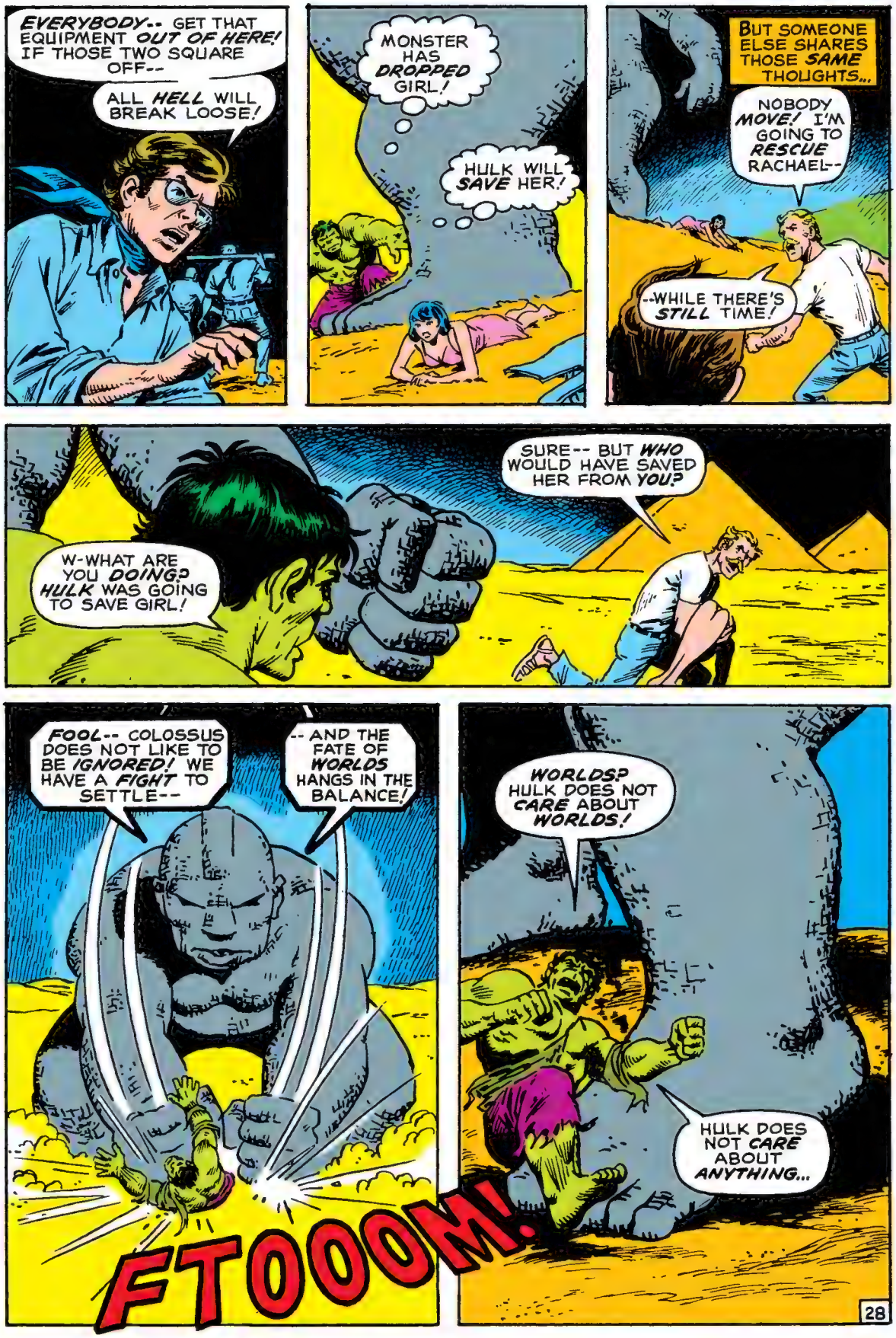

QUICKLY-- LURE HIM TOWARDS THE TRANSPORTER!
WE MUST GET THE TERRAN OUT OF THE SHIP--
--BEFORE HE TEARS IT APART!

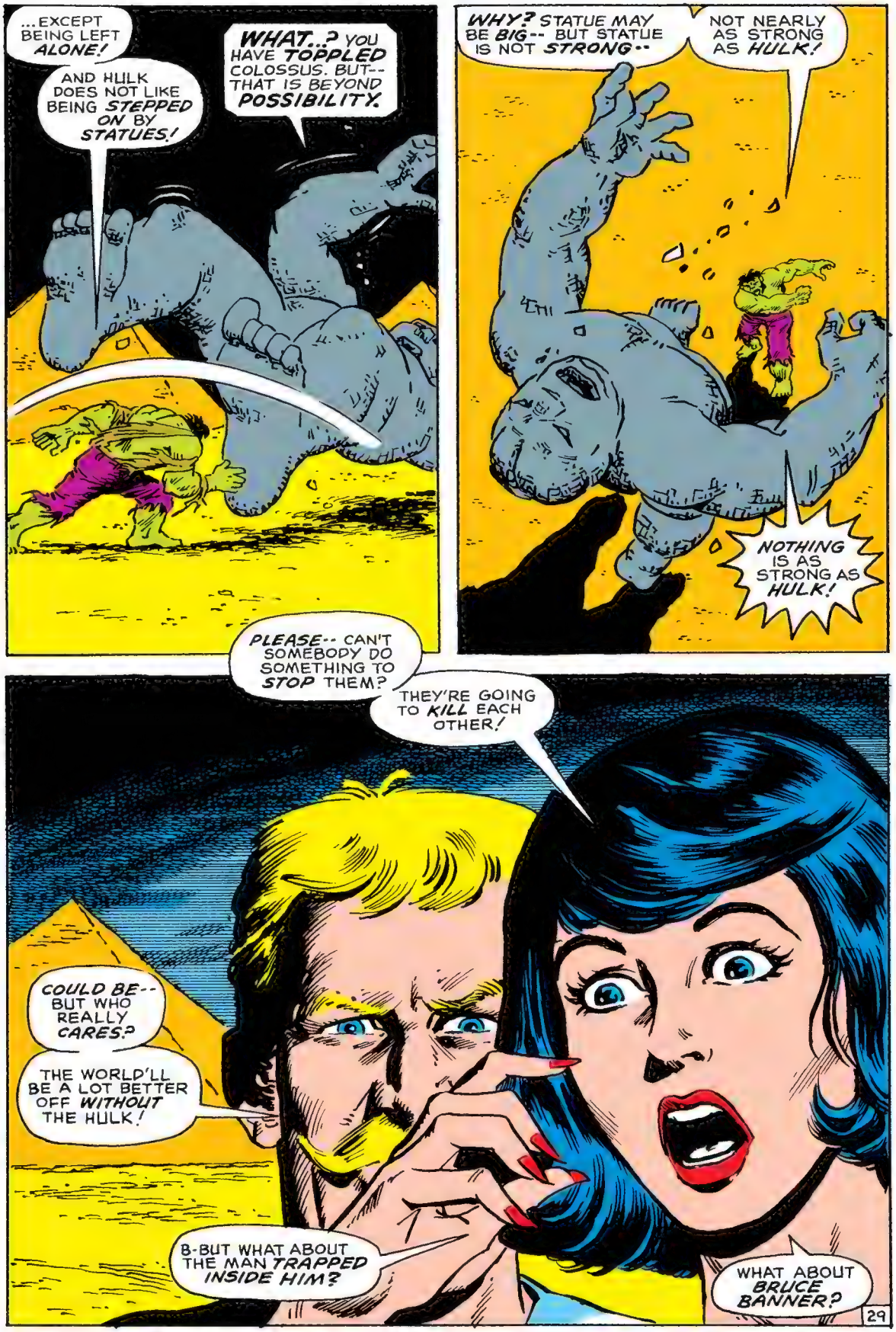

SO-- HULK WAS RIGHT!
BUT HULK IS NOT SCARED...
AGAIN HE IS THREATENED BY PUNY MACHINES!
NOW, DUAMUTEF-- NOW!

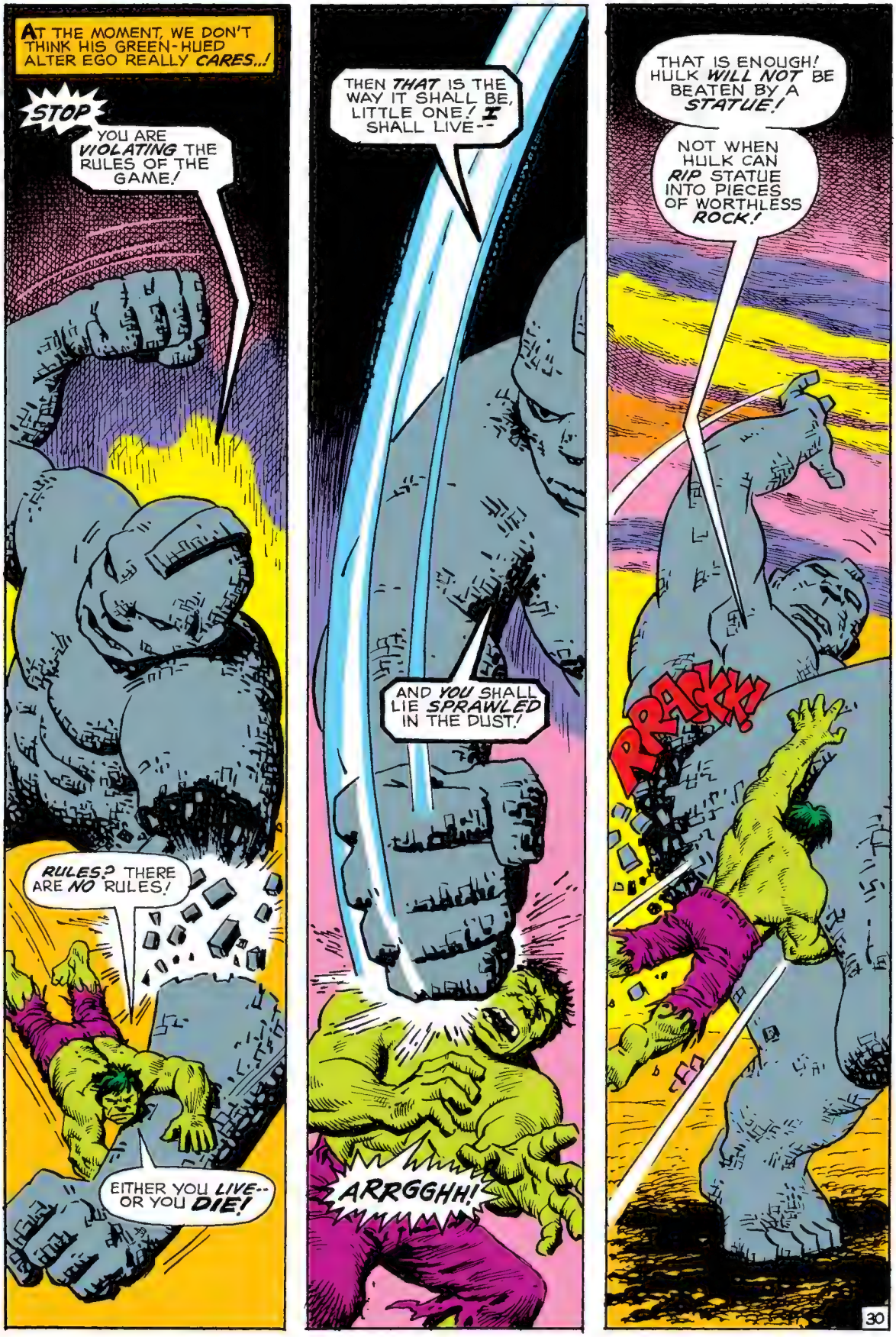
HULK WILL SMASH YOU ALLLLLLLLL...

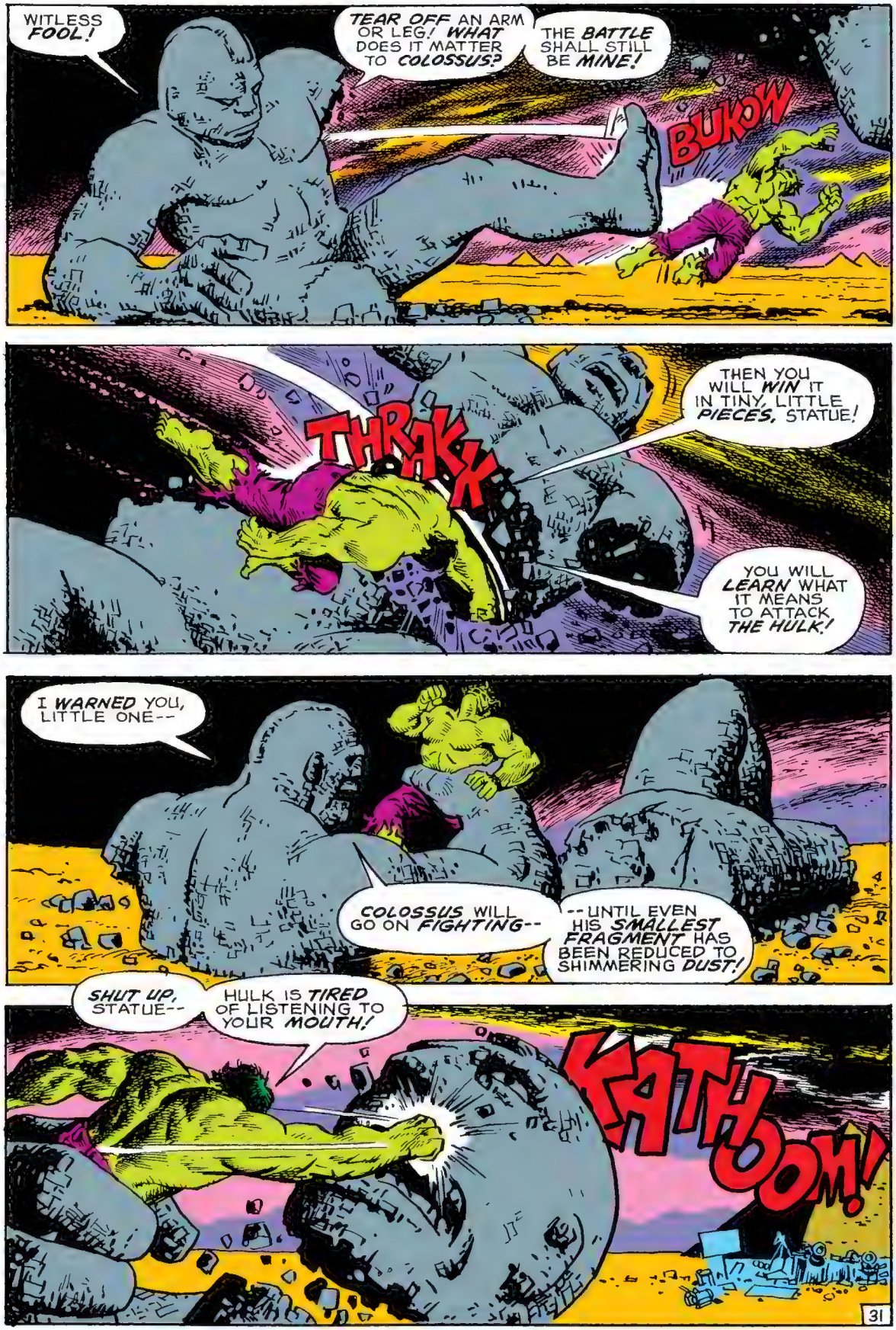

HE'S GONE--
AND WE MAY AS WELL GO, TOO!
THE TERRAN'S INTERFERENCE HAS VOIDED THE GAME!
WE MUST FIND OURSELVES ANOTHER ARENA!


BUT AS THE BIZARRE SPACECRAFT PREPARES TO LEAVE ORBIT, OUR GREEN GOLIATH MATERIALIZES-- TO FIND HIMSELF FACING...
WHERE IS THE ONE I AM TO FIGHT?
WHY WON'T MY MASTERS SHOW HIM TO ME?
WHERE IS HULK?
WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?
WHAT'S HAPPENING, HULK? IT SEEMS YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WONDERING THAT...
HOW I LONG TO HEAR MY MASTERS' VOICE!
WHY DO THEY NOT SPEAK TO ME?
SOMEHOW, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SWIFTLY-SOARING ALIENS TO SEND THEIR VOICES--
--ACROSS THE THOUSANDS OF MILES OF AIRLESS SPACE THAT STAND BETWEEN THEM AND THE SMALL PLANET EARTH...
ALL OF WHICH LEAVES OUR TWO BEHEMOTHS-- WHERE?
AH-- MY MASTERS DID NOT FAIL ME!
YOU!
YOU ARE MY ENEMY!
YOU ARE THE ONE COLOSSUS MUST DESTROY!
ME?
BUT I AM HULK!
AND--HULK DOES NOT EVEN KNOW YOU!
NOR SHALL YOU EVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, DOOMED ONE!
NOTHING HAS EVER FACED THE COLOSSUS BEFORE--
--AND SURVIVED TO TELL THE TALE!
SWAKT
27

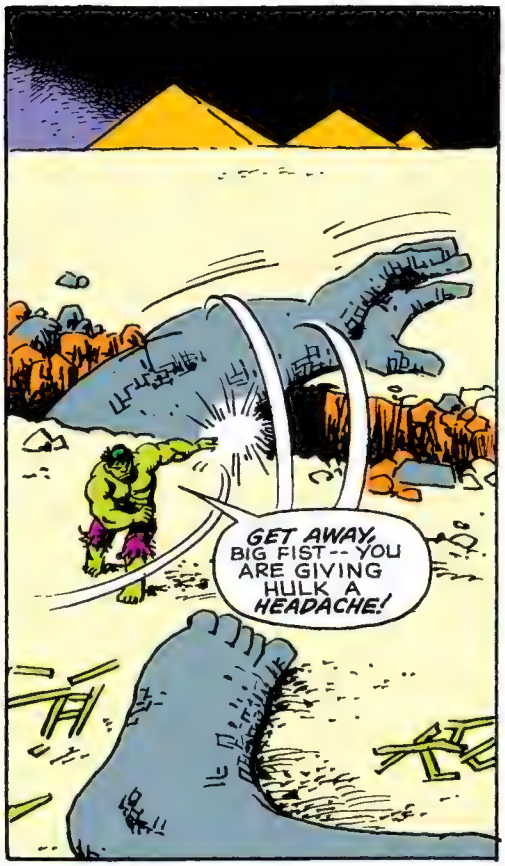

EVERYBODY-- GET THAT EQUIPMENT OUT OF HERE! IF THOSE TWO SQUARE OFF--
ALL HELL WILL BREAK LOOSE!
MONSTER HAS DROPPED GIRL!
HULK WILL SAVE HER!
BUT SOMEONE ELSE SHARES THOSE SAME THOUGHTS...
NOBODY MOVE! I'M GOING TO RESCUE RACHAEL--
--WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
SURE-- BUT WHO WOULD HAVE SAVED HER FROM YOU?
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HULK WAS GOING TO SAVE GIRL!
FOOL-- COLOSSUS DOES NOT LIKE TO BE IGNORED! WE HAVE A FIGHT TO SETTLE--
-- AND THE FATE OF WORLDS HANGS IN THE BALANCE!
FTOOOM!
WORLDS? HULK DOES NOT CARE ABOUT WORLDS!
HULK DOES NOT CARE ABOUT ANYTHING...
28

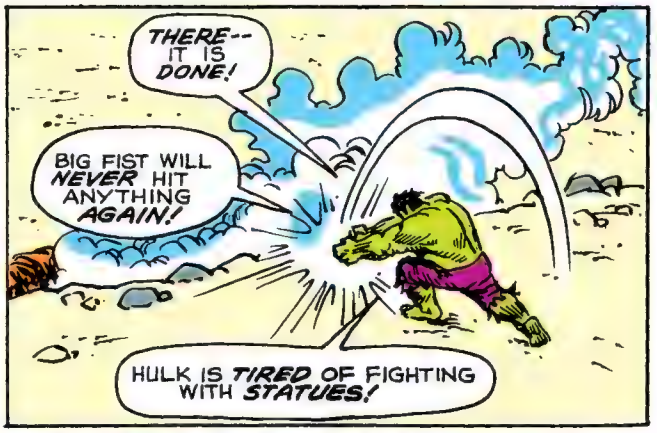

...EXCEPT BEING LEFT ALONE!
AND HULK DOES NOT LIKE BEING STEPPED ON BY STATUES!
WHAT..? YOU HAVE TOPPLED COLOSSUS. BUT-- THAT IS BEYOND POSSIBILITY.
WHY? STATUE MAY BE BIG-- BUT STATUE IS NOT STRONG--
NOT NEARLY AS STRONG AS HULK!
NOTHING IS AS STRONG AS HULK!
PLEASE-- CAN'T SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING TO STOP THEM?
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL EACH OTHER!
COULD BE-- BUT WHO REALLY CARES?
THE WORLD'LL BE A LOT BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE HULK!
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MAN TRAPPED INSIDE HIM?
WHAT ABOUT BRUCE BANNER?

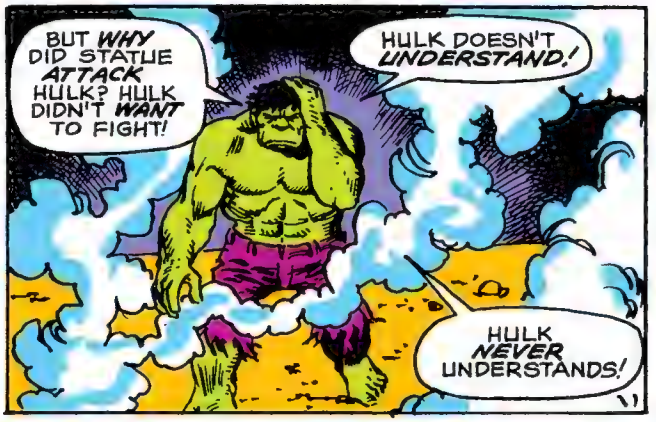

AT THE MOMENT, WE DON'T THINK HIS GREEN-HUED ALTER EGO REALLY CARES..!
STOP
YOU ARE VIOLATING THE RULES OF THE GAME!
RULES? THERE ARE NO RULES!
EITHER YOU LIVE-- OR YOU DIE!
THEN THAT IS THE WAY IT SHALL BE, LITTLE ONE! I SHALL LIVE--
AND YOU SHALL LIE SPRAWLED IN THE DUST!
ARRGGHH!
THAT IS ENOUGH! HULK WILL NOT BE BEATEN BY A STATUE!
NOT WHEN HULK CAN RIP STATUE INTO PIECES OF WORTHLESS ROCK!
RRAKK!
30

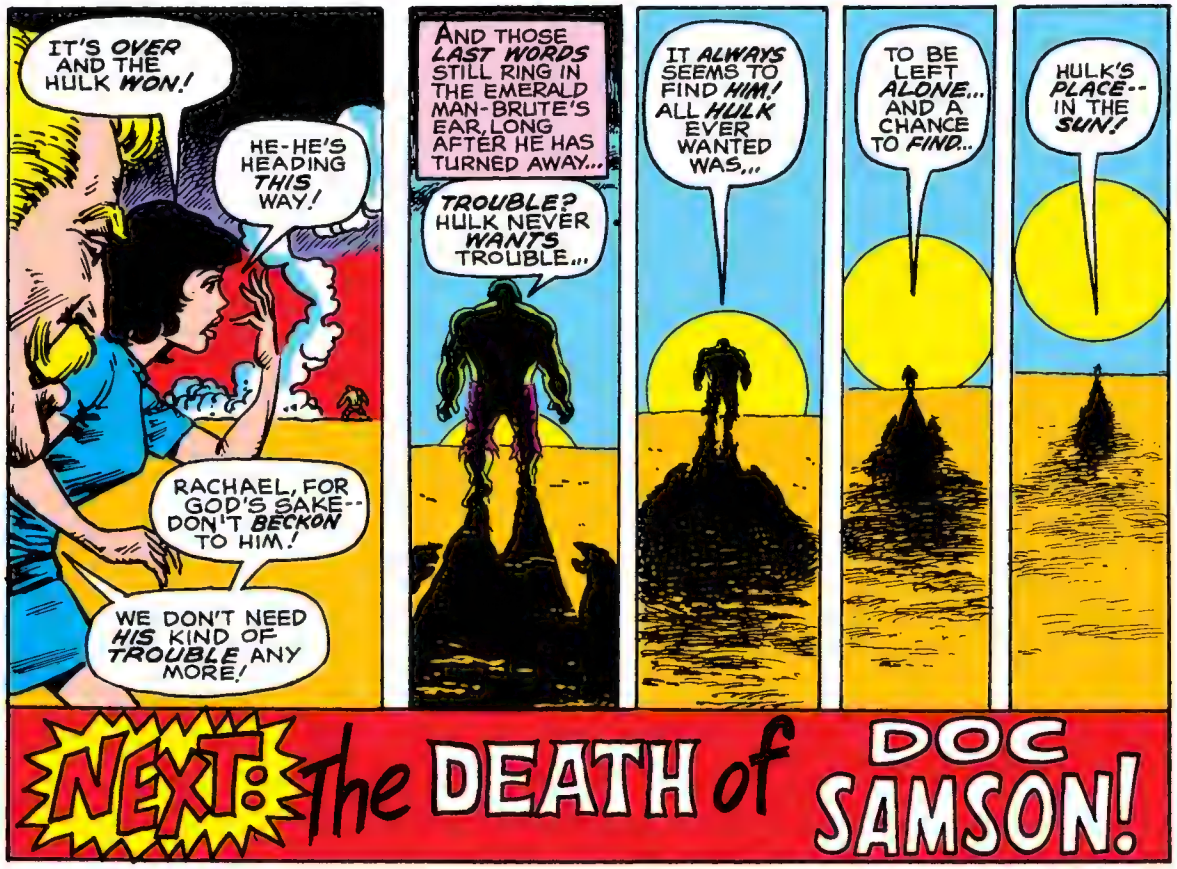

WITLESS FOOL!
TEAR OFF AN ARM OR LEG! WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO COLOSSUS?
THE BATTLE SHALL STILL BE MINE!
BUKOW
THRAKK
THEN YOU WILL WIN IT IN TINY, LITTLE PIECES, STATUE!
YOU WILL LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO ATTACK THE HULK!
I WARNED YOU, LITTLE ONE--
COLOSSUS WILL GO ON FIGHTING--
--UNTIL EVEN HIS SMALLEST FRAGMENT HAS BEEN REDUCED TO SHIMMERING DUST!
SHUT UP, STATUE--
HULK IS TIRED OF LISTENING TO YOUR MOUTH!
KATHOOM!

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT NOTHING, RACHAEL!
BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET!
THE HULK'S MAKING GRAVEL OUT THE OTHER MONSTER!
THAT OTHER T-THING'S STILL MOVING!
AND HEAVEN HELP US ALL IF IT SURVIVES!
HULK HAS DESTROYED THE STATUE-- BUT IT WON'T STAY DOWN!
STILL IT TRIES TO KILL HULK!
SEE HOW IT SMASHES THE GROUND--
TRYING TO FIND HULK TO SMASH INSTEAD!
THOMP
IF BIG FIST WANTS THE GROUND SO MUCH--
HULK WILL LET IT HAVE IT!
SKRACK!
32








IT'S OVER AND THE HULK WON!
HE-HE'S HEADING THIS WAY!
RACHAEL, FOR GOD'S SAKE-- DON'T BECKON TO HIM!
WE DON'T NEED HIS KIND OF TROUBLE ANY MORE!
AND THOSE LAST WORDS STILL RING IN THE EMERALD MAN-BRUTE'S EAR, LONG AFTER HE HAS TURNED AWAY...
TROUBLE? HULK NEVER WANTS TROUBLE...
IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO FIND HIM! ALL HULK EVER WANTED WAS...
TO BE LEFT ALONE... AND A CHANCE TO FIND..
HULK'S PLACE-- IN THE SUN!

NEXT: The DEATH of DOC SAMSON!

INCREDIBLE HULK
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THE INCREDIBLE HULK™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ALL NEW!
HULK CAME TO THE DESERT TO FIND PEACE!
BUT, IF PUNY HUMANS WANT WAR-- THEN IT'S WAR!
TRIMPE + SEVERIN
EARTH VS. THE GREEN BEHEMOTH!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

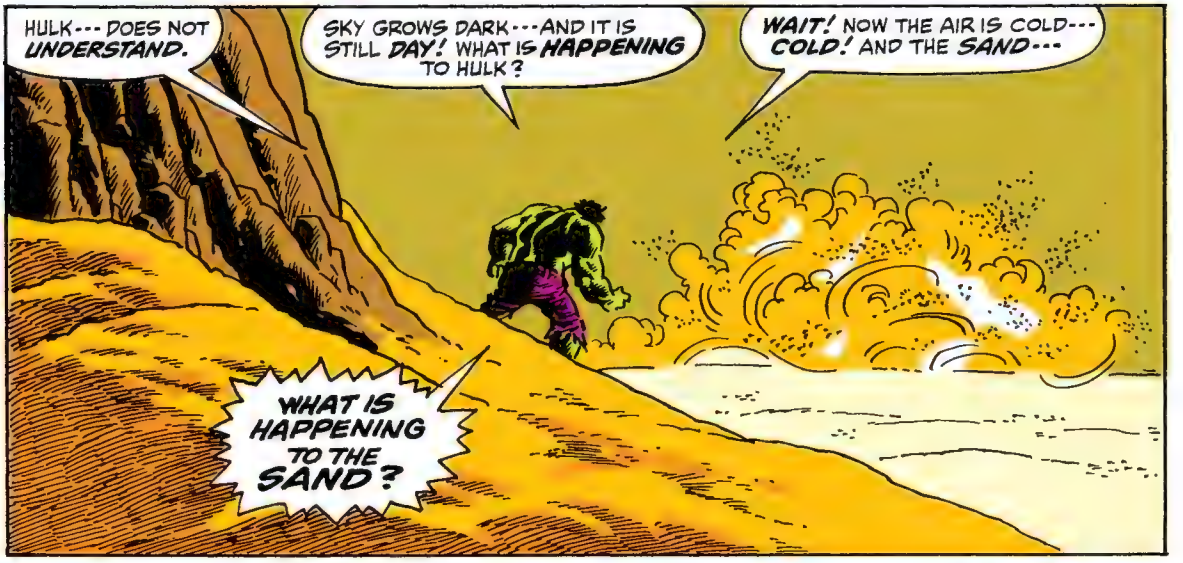
AND THE MEASURE OF A MAN IS... DEATH!

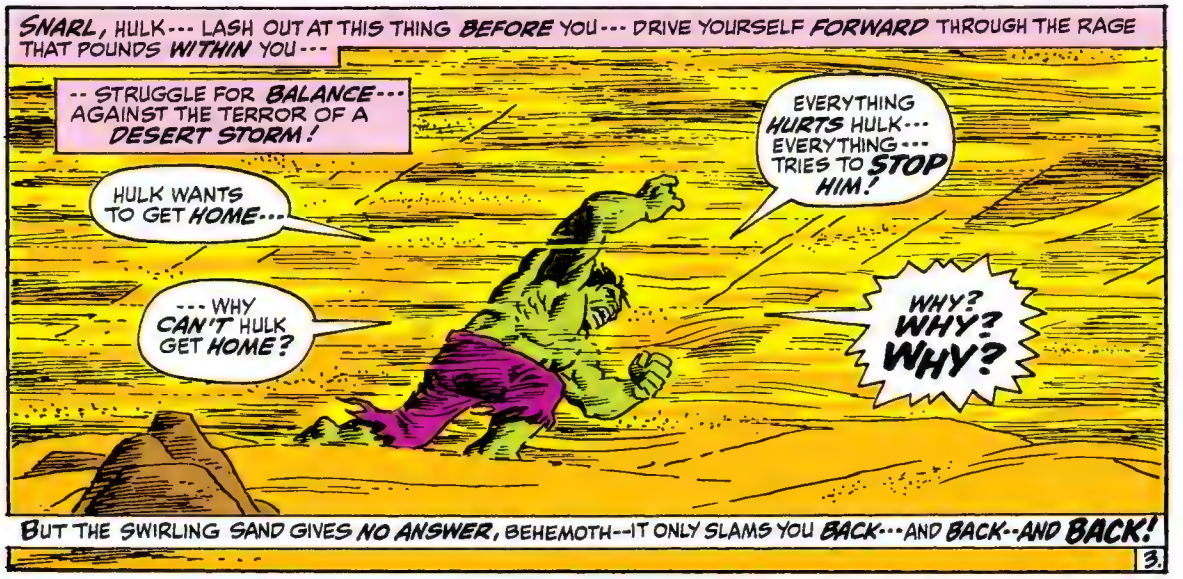
"THE VISIONS ARE ALL FLED-- THE CAR IS FLED INTO THE THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN, AND IN THEIR STEAD A SENSE OF REAL THINGS COMES DOUBLY STRONG, AND, LIKE A MUDDY STREAM, WOULD BEAR ALONG MY SOUL TO NOTHINGNESS...
"BUT I WILL STRIVE AGAINST ALL DOUBTINGS, AND WILL KEEP ALIVE THE THOUGHT OF THAT SAME CHARIOT, AND THE STRANGE JOURNEY IT WENT..."
-- JOHN KEATS, WINTER, 1816.
THINK, HULK... REMEMBER THAT GLARE OF UNEARTHLY FIRE-- THE RUSH OF SOMETHING SLICK AND GLOWING...
--THE DISAPPEARING NEEDLE-- OF AN ALIEN STARSHIP! THINK, HULK-- EVEN AS THE MEMORIES FADE... TRY TO DRAW THEM BACK...
...AND GAIN-- BUT BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT!
PART ONE

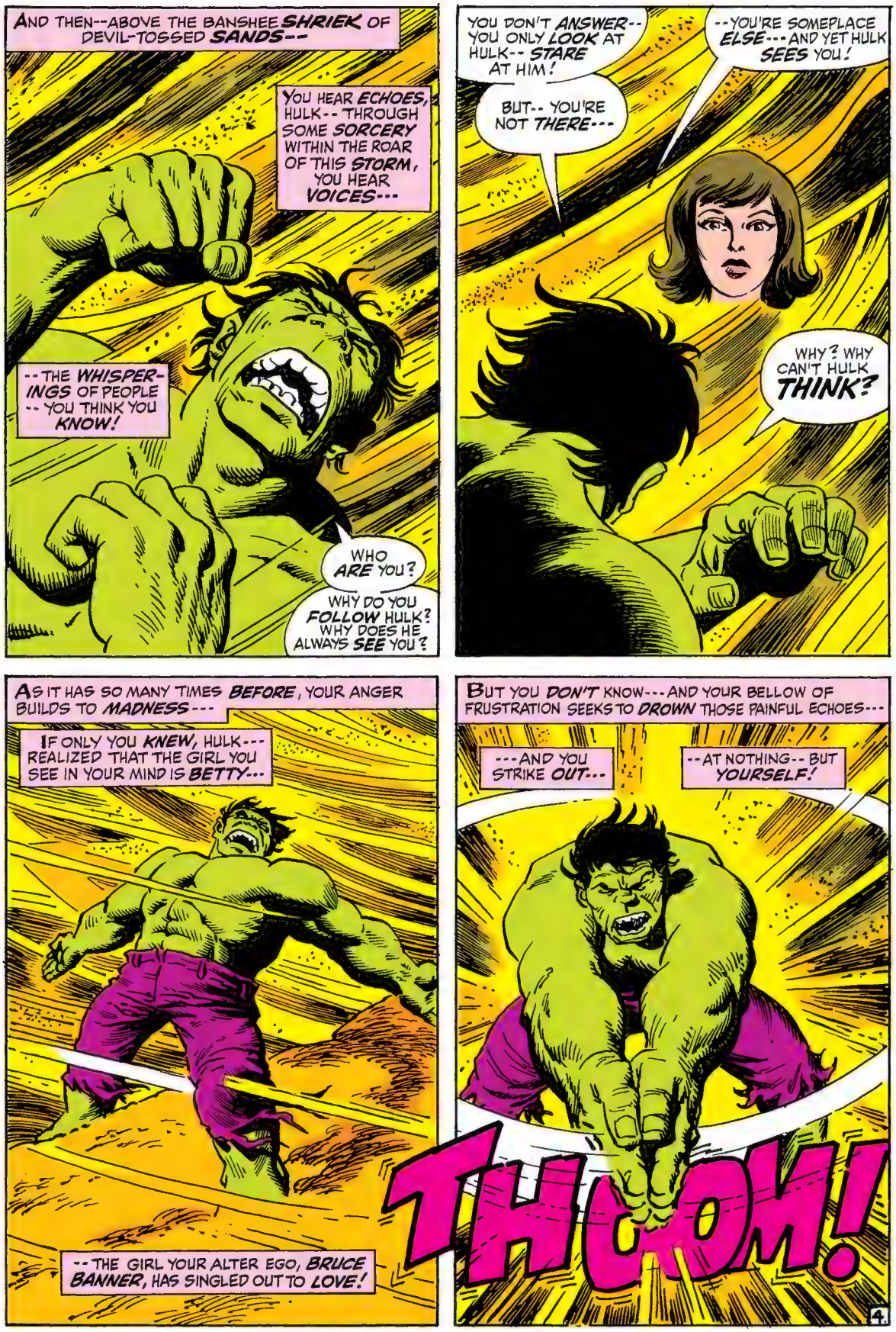
STAN LEE, EDITOR • GERRY CONWAY, WRITER • HERB TRIMPE, ARTIST
JOHN SEVERIN, INKER
ROY THOMAS, BASIC PLOTLINE
SAM ROSEN, LETTERER

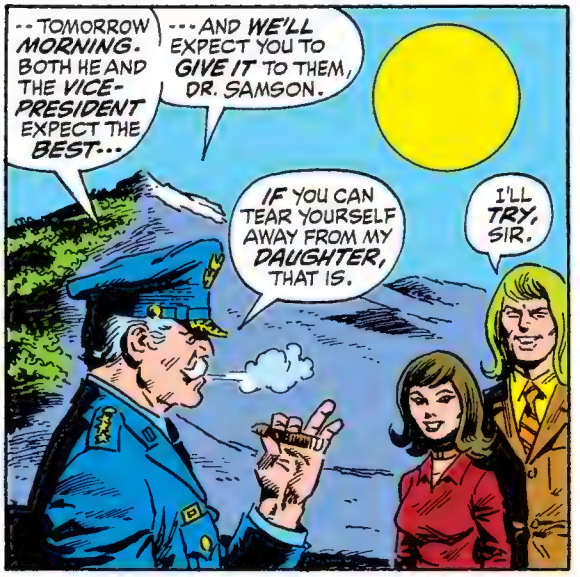
AND, WHILE A CONFUSED AND RAMBLING GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER STRIDES THE SUN-BLEACHED DUNES OF NORTHERN EGYPT, LET'S LOOK ELSEWHERE, TO YET ANOTHER STRETCH OF LONELY DESERT---
---WHERE THE METAL SKELETONS OF THINGS LIKE ANCIENT DINOSAURS PLOW THE STERILE EARTH---TO THE FURTHER GLORY OF THAT ARROGANT ANIMAL---MAN!
WHEEEE-OW! THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL YOUR BUSY-LITTLE-PROJECT, GENERAL.
THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE GONNA TRAP THE HULK?
KNOCK ON WOOD, LAD. IF THE BRAIN BOYS'VE DONE THEIR JOB WELL---
PROJECT GREENSKIN MIGHT BE THE SALVATION OF ROBERT BRUCE BANNER!
THE WAY YOU SAY THAT, DAD---
---IF ONLY I COULD BELIEVE YOU MEANT IT.
NOW, BETTY--- EVERYTHING'S A RISK.
AND OF US ALL--- DOC SAMSON KNOWS THAT BEST!
CAREFUL YOU DON'T SPRAIN YOUR ARM, SAMSON.
WE'VE EACH DONE OUR BIT TO HELP BANNER---LORD ONLY KNOWS.
BUT SOMETIMES--- THERE'S A DEEPER DUTY THAN TO SAVE --A SINGLE LIFE.
SOMETIMES--- A MAN HAS NO CHOICE!
'SCUZE ME FOR BREATHIN', GENERAL--BUT I THINK IT'S TIME I PLAYED HITCH-HIKER AGAIN.
ALL THIS NOBILITY MAKES ME KINDA JEALOUS, YOU KNOW?
JIMBO'S CUTTIN' OUT---
PRESIDENTIAL INSPECTION OR NO!
IT'S UP TO YOU, SON. WE'LL SEE ABOUT A RIDE FOR YOU AS FAR AS L.A.--
-- BUT YOU KNOW I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING.
GENERAL, I'M GLAD! I WAS GETTIN' KIND'A SICK OF PRO-MISES, ANYWAY.
DAD? SOME SORT OF LIGHT--- IN THE SKY.
FORGET IT, BETTY. WE'VE OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT---
2.

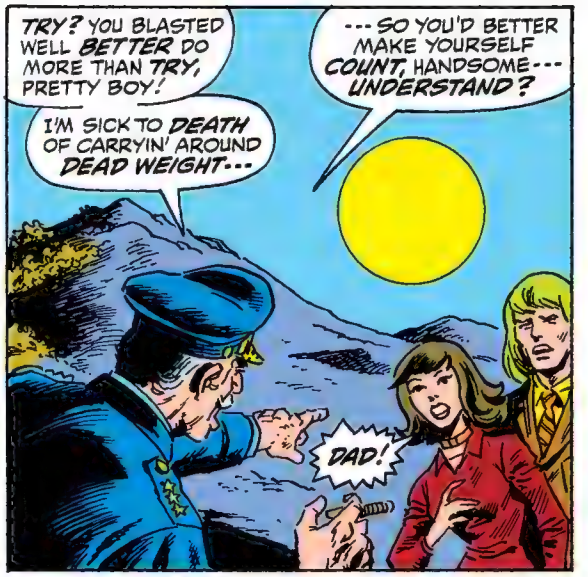
"SUCH AS--- WHERE IS THE HULK?"
THAT'S ONE QUESTION BOTH YOU AND THE GENERAL SHARE, HULK---
--- WHAT IS THIS PLACE, WHERE THE SUN BURNS YOUR EYES, WHERE DRY WIND CUTS AND TEARS YOUR SKIN?
AND-- MOST OF ALL-- WHAT IS THAT COMING TOWARDS YOU?


HULK--- DOES NOT UNDERSTAND.
SKY GROWS DARK---AND IT IS STILL DAY! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HULK?
WAIT! NOW THE AIR IS COLD--- COLD! AND THE SAND---
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE SAND?

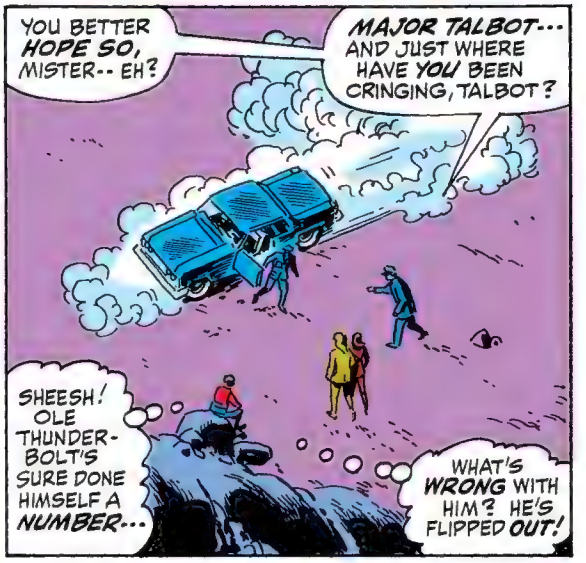

SNARL, HULK--- LASH OUT AT THIS THING BEFORE YOU--- DRIVE YOURSELF FORWARD THROUGH THE RAGE THAT POUNDS WITHIN YOU---
-- STRUGGLE FOR BALANCE--- AGAINST THE TERROR OF A DESERT STORM!
HULK WANTS TO GET HOME---
--- WHY CAN'T HULK GET HOME?
EVERYTHING HURTS HULK--- EVERYTHING--- TRIES TO STOP HIM!
WHY? WHY? WHY?
BUT THE SWIRLING SAND GIVES NO ANSWER, BEHEMOTH--IT ONLY SLAMS YOU BACK---AND BACK--AND BACK!


AND THEN--ABOVE THE BANSHEE SHRIEK OF DEVIL-TOSSED SANDS--
YOU HEAR ECHOES, HULK-- THROUGH SOME SORCERY WITHIN THE ROAR OF THIS STORM, YOU HEAR VOICES---
--THE WHISPERINGS OF PEOPLE -- YOU THINK YOU KNOW!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY DO YOU FOLLOW HULK? WHY DOES HE ALWAYS SEE YOU?
YOU DON'T ANSWER-- YOU ONLY LOOK AT HULK-- STARE AT HIM!
BUT-- YOU'RE NOT THERE---
--YOU'RE SOMEPLACE ELSE--- AND YET HULK SEES YOU!
WHY? WHY CAN'T HULK THINK?
AS IT HAS SO MANY TIMES BEFORE, YOUR ANGER BUILDS TO MADNESS---
IF ONLY YOU KNEW, HULK--- REALIZED THAT THE GIRL YOU SEE IN YOUR MIND IS BETTY---
--THE GIRL YOUR ALTER EGO, BRUCE BANNER, HAS SINGLED OUT TO LOVE!
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW--- AND YOUR BELLOW OF FRUSTRATION SEEKS TO DROWN THOSE PAINFUL ECHOES---
---AND YOU STRIKE OUT---
--AT NOTHING-- BUT YOURSELF!
THOOM!

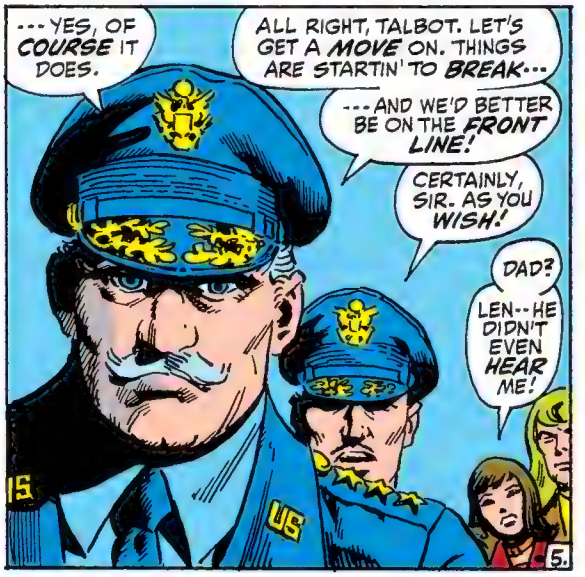

--TOMORROW MORNING. BOTH HE AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT EXPECT THE BEST---
---AND WE'LL EXPECT YOU TO GIVE IT TO THEM, DR. SAMSON.
IF YOU CAN TEAR YOURSELF AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER, THAT IS.
I'LL TRY, SIR.


TRY? YOU BLASTED WELL BETTER DO MORE THAN TRY, PRETTY BOY!
I'M SICK TO DEATH OF CARRYIN' AROUND DEAD WEIGHT---
---SO YOU'D BETTER MAKE YOURSELF COUNT, HANDSOME--- UNDERSTAND?
DAD!

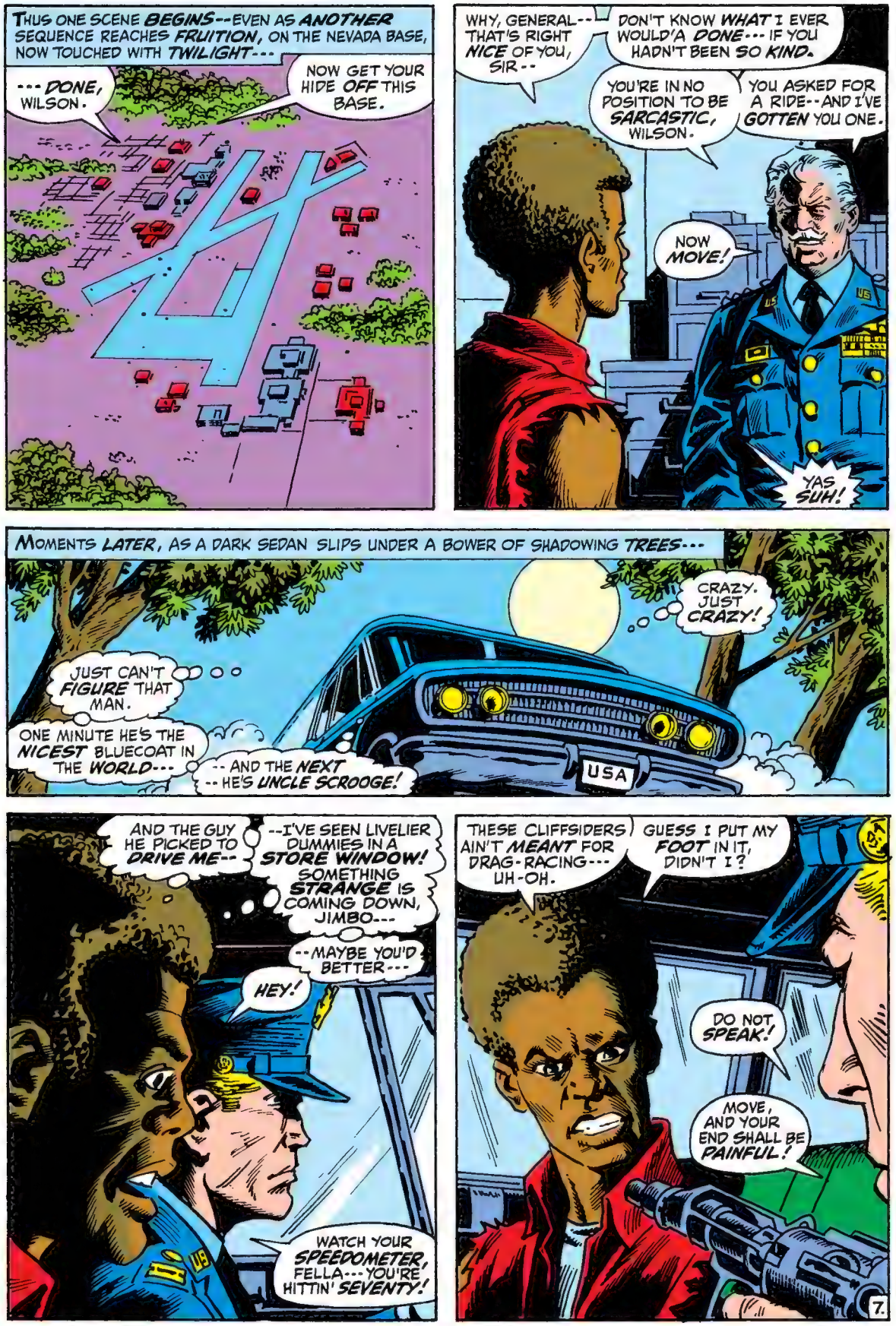
NO, BETTY--- IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I UNDER-STAND, SIR--- YES, I THINK I DO UNDER-STAND.


YOU BETTER HOPE SO, MISTER-- EH?
MAJOR TALBOT--- AND JUST WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN CRINGING, TALBOT?
SHEESH! OLE THUNDER-BOLT'S SURE DONE HIMSELF A NUMBER---
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM? HE'S FLIPPED OUT!

WHY, GENERAL--- DON'T YOU REMEMBER OUR DISCUSSION?
I'VE BEEN PLANNING THE RECEPTION FOR THE PRESIDENT--
--AND, SIR--- EVERY-THING GOES WELL!
--GOES WELL?
YES---


---YES, OF COURSE IT DOES.
ALL RIGHT, TALBOT. LET'S GET A MOVE ON. THINGS ARE STARTIN' TO BREAK---
---AND WE'D BETTER BE ON THE FRONT LINE!
CERTAINLY, SIR. AS YOU WISH!
DAD?
LEN--HE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ME!

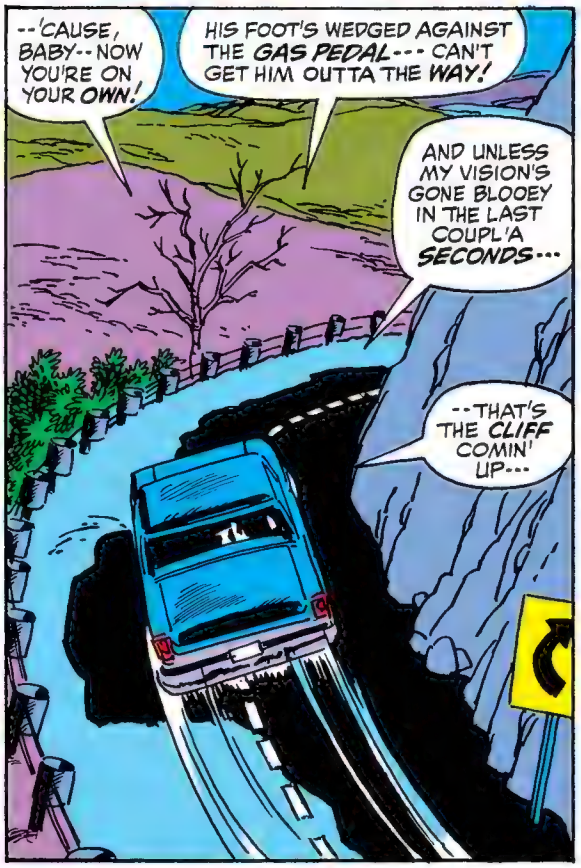
--IT'S OVER, HULK---THE WIND SWIRLS A LAST, FITFUL GUST--- PARTICLES OF BITING SAND PIT YOUR FACE AND CHEST--- BUT IT'S OVER.
SIX HOURS--- SIX HOURS BENEATH A STEEL GRAY SKY, ENTRAPPED IN A TOMB OF WHIRLPOOLING DARKNESS---
NOW THE SANDS PART, AND YOU SEE---
--SOMEONE-- COMES NEAR HULK.
HAIR-- LONG-- LIKE BETTY--- AND SOMEONE ELSE!
BETTY?
NO! NOT BETTY--- BUT ANOTHER GIRL-- A GIRL WITH A GUN!
WHY DOES EVERYONE HAVE GUNS?
WHY MUST THEY ALL SHOOT AT HULK?
MAYBE THIS ONE--?
ABRAHAM'S SWORD! SOME SORT-- OF MONSTER!
NO, HULK-- IT'S NO DIFFERENT! WILL IT ALWAYS BE THIS WAY--- YOUR LIFE BUT A SHIFTING OF SCENES-- WITH THE PLAY, EVER THE SAME PLAY?
HER SCREAM IS SHRILL, HER BULLETS LIKE GNAT-STINGS--- BUT STILL---
YOU HURT HULK.
HULK DOES NOT LIKE BEING HURT.
HULK HAS WALKED FOR HOURS. HULK IS TIRED.
BUT YOU WILL NOT STOP!
EVEN HERE-- WHERE ALL IS BRIGHT-- ALL IS DEAD---
---YOU WON'T LEAVE HULK ALONE!
HULK DOES NOT LIKE TO HIT WOMEN---
--- BUT MAYBE HULK CHANGES HIS MIND--- THIS TIME!
6.

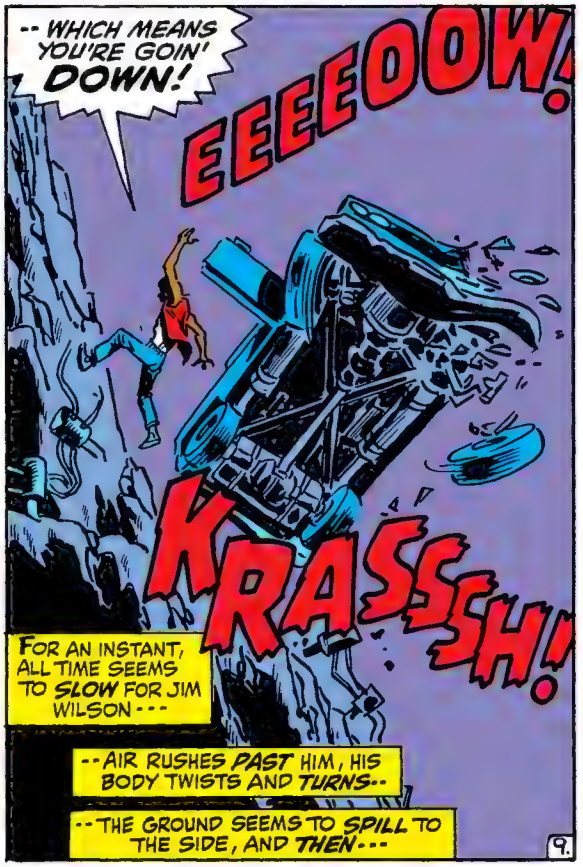

THUS ONE SCENE BEGINS--EVEN AS ANOTHER SEQUENCE REACHES FRUITION, ON THE NEVADA BASE, NOW TOUCHED WITH TWILIGHT---
--- DONE, WILSON.
NOW GET YOUR HIDE OFF THIS BASE.
WHY, GENERAL--THAT'S RIGHT NICE OF YOU, SIR--
DON'T KNOW WHAT I EVER WOULD'A DONE--- IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SO KIND.
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO BE SARCASTIC, WILSON.
YOU ASKED FOR A RIDE--AND I'VE GOTTEN YOU ONE.
NOW MOVE!
YAS SUH!
MOMENTS LATER, AS A DARK SEDAN SLIPS UNDER A BOWER OF SHADOWING TREES---
CRAZY. JUST CRAZY!
JUST CAN'T FIGURE THAT MAN.
ONE MINUTE HE'S THE NICEST BLUECOAT IN THE WORLD---
-- AND THE NEXT -- HE'S UNCLE SCROOGE!
USA
AND THE GUY HE PICKED TO DRIVE ME--
--I'VE SEEN LIVELIER DUMMIES IN A STORE WINDOW!
SOMETHING STRANGE IS COMING DOWN, JIMBO---
--MAYBE YOU'D BETTER---
HEY!
WATCH YOUR SPEEDOMETER, FELLA--- YOU'RE HITTIN' SEVENTY!
THESE CLIFFSIDERS AIN'T MEANT FOR DRAG-RACING--- UH-OH.
GUESS I PUT MY FOOT IN IT, DIDN'T I?
DO NOT SPEAK!
MOVE, AND YOUR END SHALL BE PAINFUL!
7.

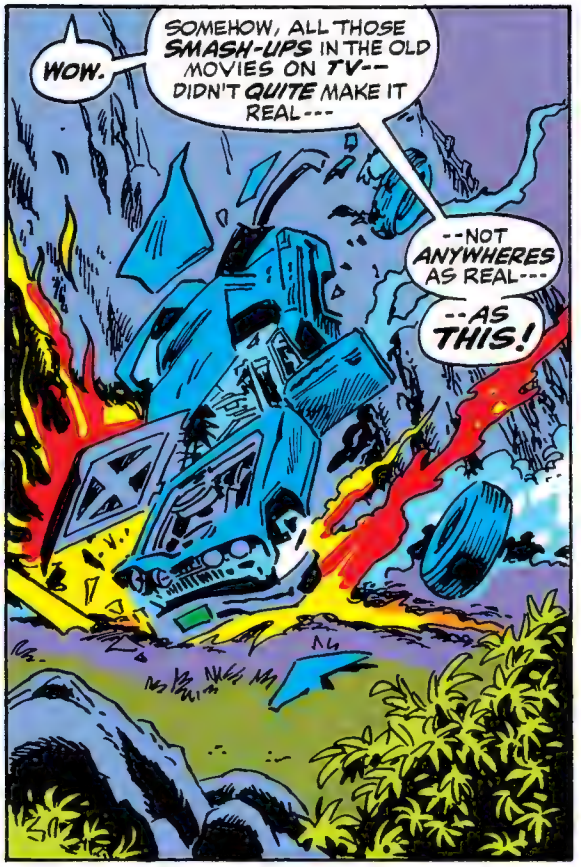
THE DUNES ARE HOT BENEATH YOUR FEET, THE SAND SHIFTING LIKE AN OCEAN'S WAVES--- YOU TAKE THE FINAL HILL AT A SINGLE STRIDE, THE ANGER WITHIN YOU COOLING WITH EVERY STEP. PERHAPS THIS ONE IS ONLY FRIGHTENED. PERHAPS YOU MIGHT TALK TO HER-- FOR ISN'T SHE, AFTER ALL, ONLY A WOMAN?
THE THOUGHT OF TALKING IS A STRANGE ONE TO YOUR INNER EAR-- AND YET, IN ITS WAY, A PLEASING ONE. YOU ARE LONELY, HULK-- SO TERRIBLY, TERRIBLY CUT OFF FROM ALL YOU KNOW-- AND, YES, CARE FOR---
--PERHAPS, PERHAPS--
NO!
IT IS A TRICK! THEY HAVE TRICKED HULK-- LIKE THOSE OTHERS, WITH THEIR BRIGHT LIGHTS--- AND THEIR STRANGE BOXES!*
THEY USED GIRL TOO--- ALWAYS HULK IS TRAPPED BY A GIRL.
NO MORE!
NOW HULK STOMPS! NOW HULK WILL SMASH!
HULK WILL SMASH YOU ALL!
*THOSE BOXES WERE CAMERAS, AND THOSE TRICKSTERS A MOVIE CREW--- BUT YOU'D KNOW THAT, FOOTNOTE-FOLLOWER-- IF YOU'D READ LAST ISSUE! -- STAN.
8.

WHILE--MORE THAN HALF A WORLD AWAY--
FRIEND, I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YA---
--ANY WAY YOU PLAY IT--- THERE'S GONNA BE HURT!
THOK!
AND I DON'T STAND BY HURT!

CRIPES! THE BLASTED THING RICOCHETED!
THERE GOES YOUR MEAL TICKET, JIMBO---
WOK!


--'CAUSE, BABY--NOW YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!
HIS FOOT'S WEDGED AGAINST THE GAS PEDAL--- CAN'T GET HIM OUTTA THE WAY!
AND UNLESS MY VISION'S GONE BLOOEY IN THE LAST COUPL'A SECONDS---
--THAT'S THE CLIFF COMIN' UP---


-- WHICH MEANS YOU'RE GOIN' DOWN!
EEEEOOW!
KRASSSH!
FOR AN INSTANT, ALL TIME SEEMS TO SLOW FOR JIM WILSON---
--AIR RUSHES PAST HIM, HIS BODY TWISTS AND TURNS--
--THE GROUND SEEMS TO SPILL TO THE SIDE, AND THEN---
9.


WOW.
SOMEHOW, ALL THOSE SMASH-UPS IN THE OLD MOVIES ON TV-- DIDN'T QUITE MAKE IT REAL---
--NOT ANYWHERES AS REAL---
--AS THIS!

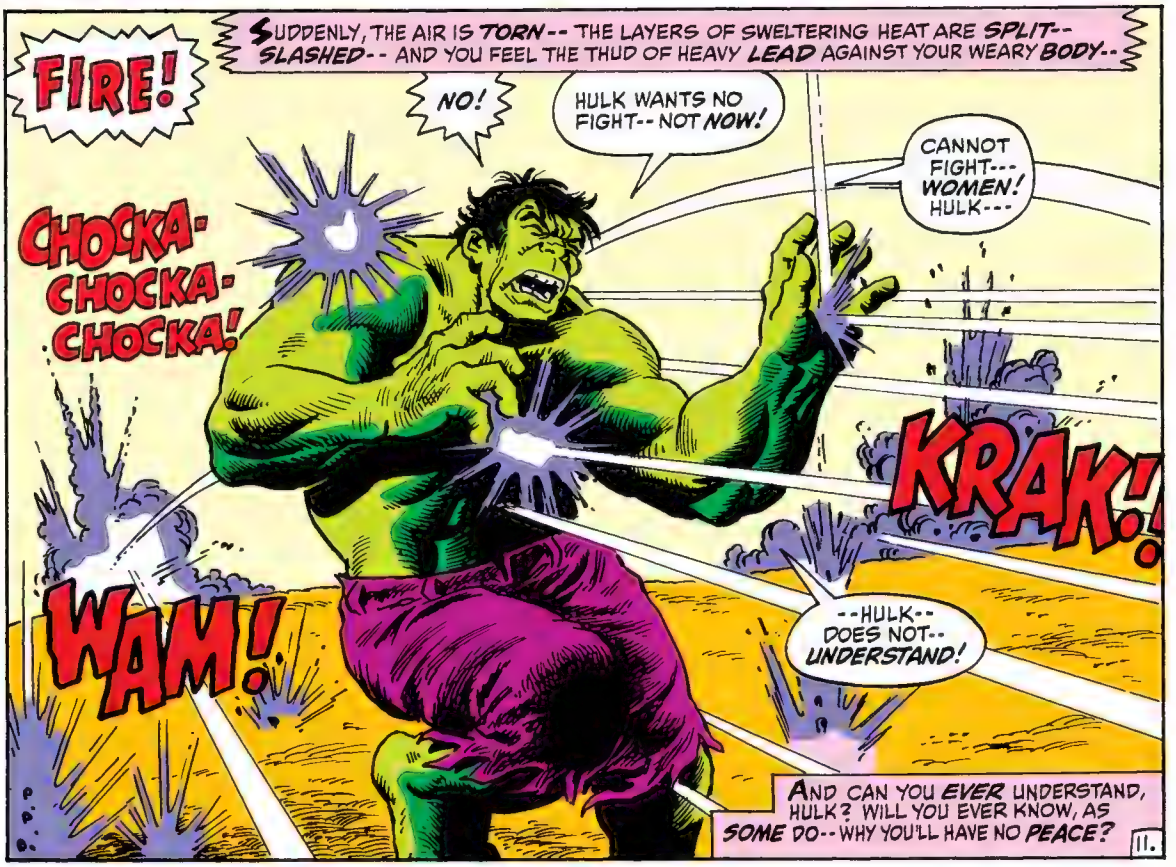
OKAY, JIMBO-- THIS IS WHERE YOU PLAY BOY SCOUT.
THAT GUY WITH THE CRAZY WATER GUN MIGHT JUST STILL BE ALIVE--
---AND SURE AS YOUR NAME'S WILSON-- YOU'RE NOT GONNA LET HIM BURN!

AND IT'S FUNNY---
--'CAUSE SOMEHOW, ALL THOSE YEARS IN A LOS ANGELES SLUM---
-- I NEVER DREAMED I'D BE PLAYING ST. BERNARD TO A WHITE MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL ME.
GUESS I'VE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME AT THE SATURDAY-MORNING FLICKS---

--AND THAT SORTA HERO NUMBER CAN GET INTO YOUR BLOODSTREAM!
WHOA, MAN--EVEN JIM BROWN'D THINK TWICE ABOUT DANCING INTO THAT INFERNO.
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER---
--HOLD IT!
WHAT'S THAT?

AND MEANWHILE, YOU STOP, HULK. SOMETHING WITHIN, SOME LAST VESTIGE OF THE HUMANITY WHICH ONCE CLAIMED YOU-- BRINGS YOU TO A HALT.
THEY'RE WOMEN, HULK-- YOU CAN'T STRIKE A WOMAN!
HULK IS--- CONFUSED.
HULK'S HEAD HURTS. HE DOESN'T--- UNDERSTAND.
WHAT ARMY GIVES GUNS--- TO GIRLS?

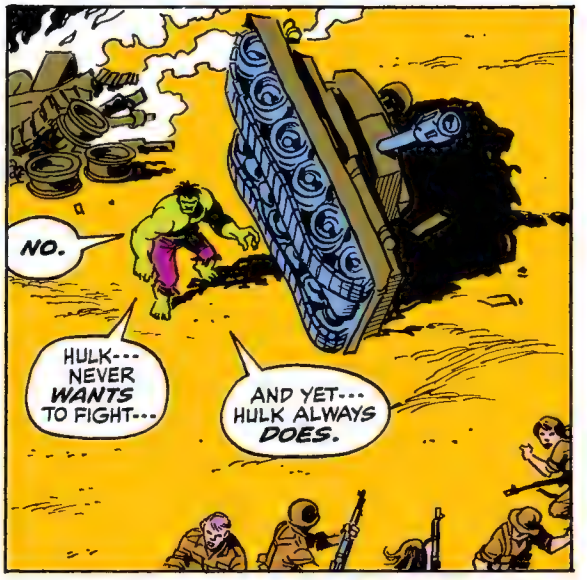
IF YOU'D BEEN FOLLOWING THE NEWS, GREEN-SKIN, YOU'D KNOW--
--THE ARMY OF ISRAEL!
ON MY COUNT--- DESTROY THE FOREIGN ATTACKER!
STRANGE-- THE BEAST DOESN'T MOVE!
IT FLOUNDERS-- LIKE A SMALL CHILD!

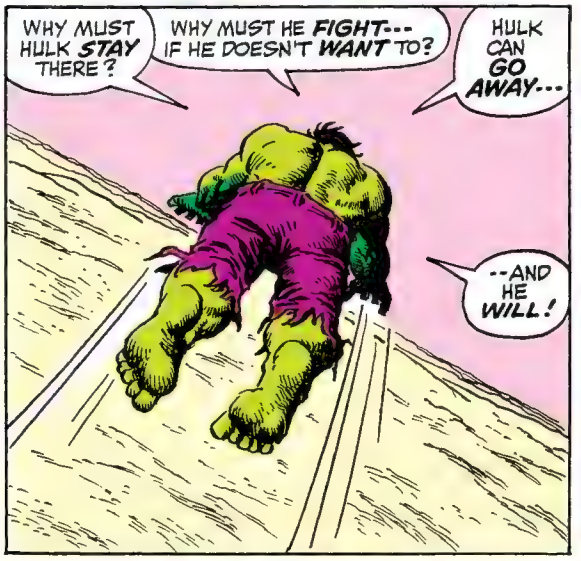

SUDDENLY, THE AIR IS TORN-- THE LAYERS OF SWELTERING HEAT ARE SPLIT-- SLASHED-- AND YOU FEEL THE THUD OF HEAVY LEAD AGAINST YOUR WEARY BODY--
FIRE!
NO!
HULK WANTS NO FIGHT-- NOT NOW!
CANNOT FIGHT--- WOMEN! HULK---
CHOCKA-CHOCKA-CHOCKA!
KRAK!
WAM!
--HULK-- DOES NOT-- UNDERSTAND!
AND CAN YOU EVER UNDERSTAND, HULK? WILL YOU EVER KNOW, AS SOME DO-- WHY YOU'LL HAVE NO PEACE?

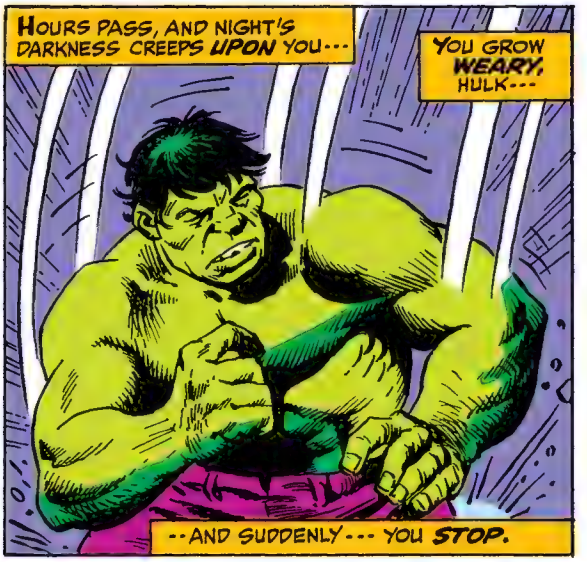
TWO ODYSSEYS HAVE BEEN BEGUN, THIS DAY-- ONE, THE SOUL-WOUNDING SEARCH OF THE HULK--- A JOURNEY HOMEWARD--- TO A PLACE THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY---
--THE OTHER, A MORE PERSONAL ODYSSEY--- THE PRIVATE TRIP OF THE YOUTH NAMED JIM WILSON INTO A SUDDEN HELL OF MYSTERY ONLY INTIMATED IN GENERAL ROSS'S UNCANNY BEHAVIOR--
--A HINT TURNED STATEMENT, WITH---
WHAT WAS THAT NUMBER ABOUT MOVIES, JIMBO?
HOLEEEEE CRUD!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE STUMBLED INTO SOMETHING STRAIGHT OUTTA "CREATURE FEATURE"!
--'CAUSE IF THAT AIN'T A FREAKING ROBOT---
--YOU AIN'T THE HULK'S BEST FRIEND!
ESTABLISHED--- ONE SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, AN ATTEMPTED MURDER, AND A MIND-FOULING RIDDLE! AND THAT RIDDLE IS---
"--CAN AN INGENIOUS YOUNG BLACK FROM THE LOS ANGELES SLUMS MAKE IT BIG AGAINST A MADMAN WITH AN ARMY OF ANDROIDS?"
GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT TILL PART TWO--RIGHT ON YOUR VERY NEXT PAGE!
12

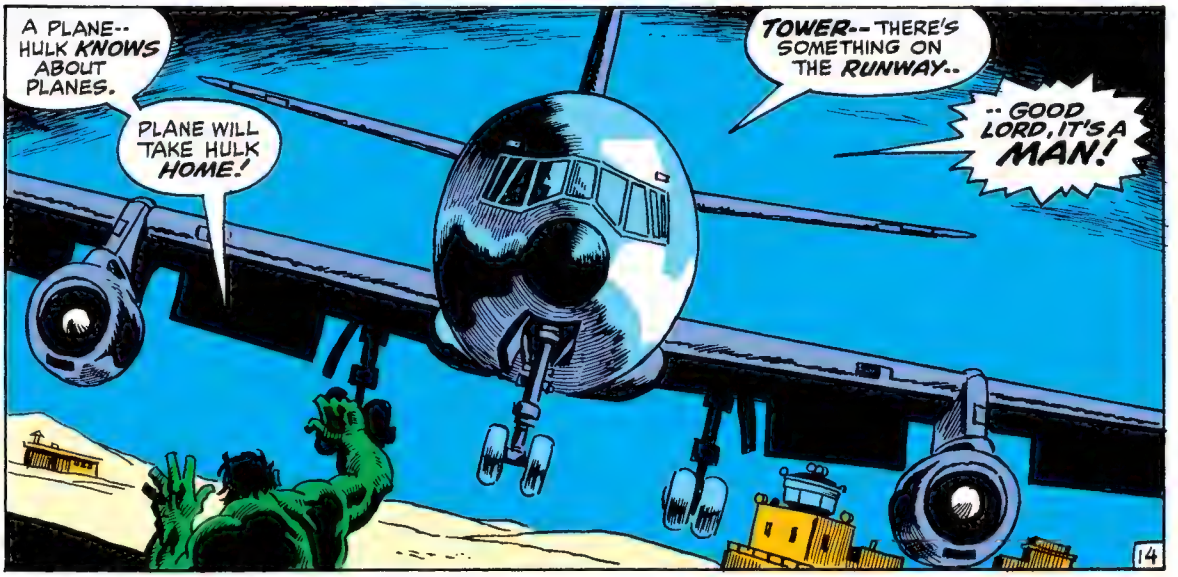
PART TWO
MAN-TRAP!
TIME SEEMS TO FLOW ABOUT YOU, HULK--- FOR LONG MOMENTS YOU STAND ROOTED, STARING IN BEWILDERMENT AT THOSE ATTACKING YOU!
THEN YOUR LIPS CURL BACK, A RUMBLE GROWS IN YOUR CHEST, AND WITH SUDDENLY-RELEASED FURY, YOU BELLOW---
HULK DOESN'T KNOW WHY YOU TRY TO HURT HIM--
--AND HULK DOESN'T CARE!
EVEN WOMEN TRY TO STOP HULK -- TRY TO KEEP HIM FROM GOING HOME!
WELL, HULK IS GOING HOME---
--AND HE'LL CRUSH ALL WHO STAND IN HIS WAY!
COMMANDER-- THE BEAST TALKS!
WHAT DOES HE SAY?
FORGET HIS WORDS---
HIS ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN ALL!
13

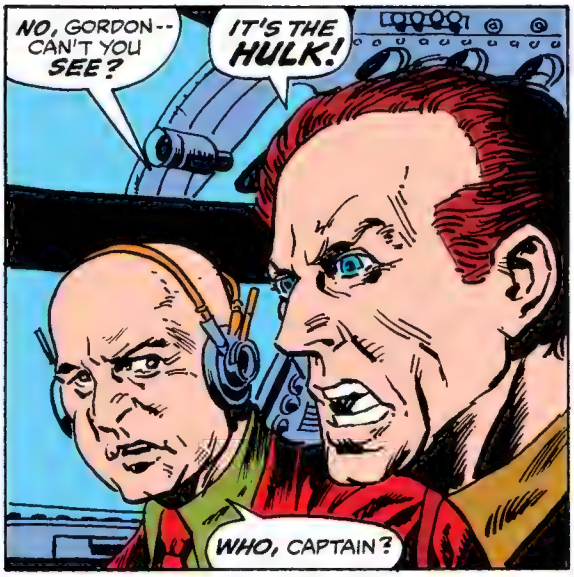
HULK WILL GIVE THIS TO YOU---
--HARD!
YOU. YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SET THEM AGAINST HULK.
EVERYONE-- GET BACK! HE'S GOING TO--

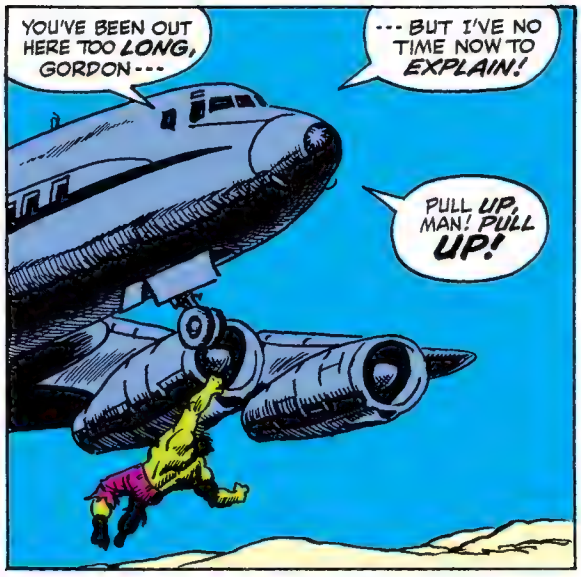

NO.
HULK--- NEVER WANTS TO FIGHT---
AND YET--- HULK ALWAYS DOES.

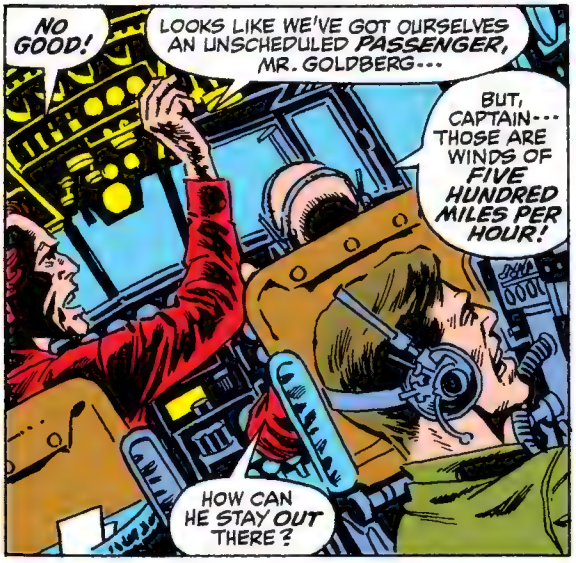

WHY MUST HULK STAY THERE?
WHY MUST HE FIGHT--- IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO?
HULK CAN GO AWAY---
--AND HE WILL!


HOURS PASS, AND NIGHT'S DARKNESS CREEPS UPON YOU---
YOU GROW WEARY, HULK---
--AND SUDDENLY--- YOU STOP.

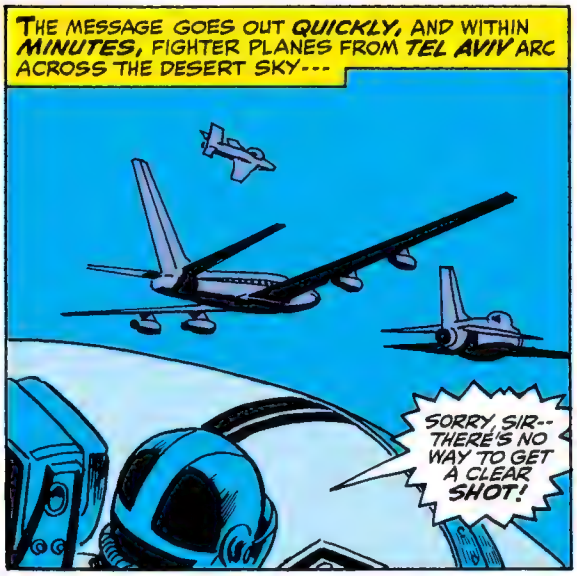

A PLANE-- HULK KNOWS ABOUT PLANES.
PLANE WILL TAKE HULK HOME!
TOWER-- THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE RUNWAY--
--GOOD LORD, IT'S A MAN!


NO, GORDON-- CAN'T YOU SEE?
IT'S THE HULK!
WHO, CAPTAIN?

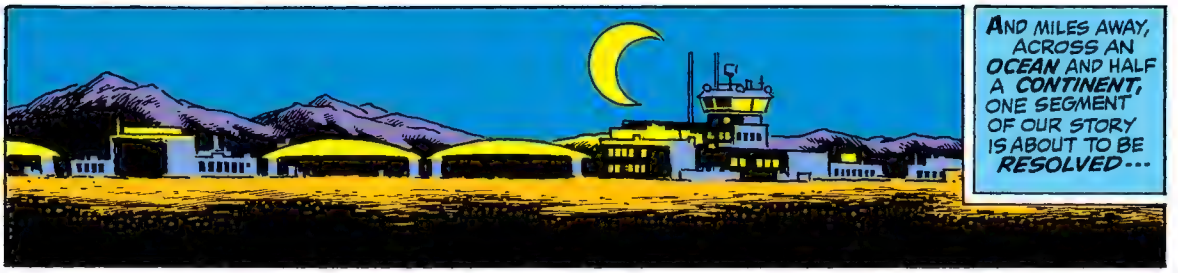

YOU'VE BEEN OUT HERE TOO LONG, GORDON---
--- BUT I'VE NO TIME NOW TO EXPLAIN!
PULL UP, MAN! PULL UP!


NO GOOD!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OURSELVES AN UNSCHEDULED PASSENGER, MR. GOLDBERG---
BUT, CAPTAIN--- THOSE ARE WINDS OF FIVE HUNDRED MILES PER HOUR!
HOW CAN HE STAY OUT THERE?

LIKE I SAID, GORDON--
IT'S THE HULK!


THE MESSAGE GOES OUT QUICKLY, AND WITHIN MINUTES, FIGHTER PLANES FROM TEL AVIV ARC ACROSS THE DESERT SKY---
SORRY, SIR-- THERE'S NO WAY TO GET A CLEAR SHOT!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE---
-- DON'T SHOOT! WE JUST CONTACTED THE U.S. PENTAGON--
--AND THEY'VE GOT SPECIAL PLANS FOR THE HULK.
VERY SPECIAL PLANS.

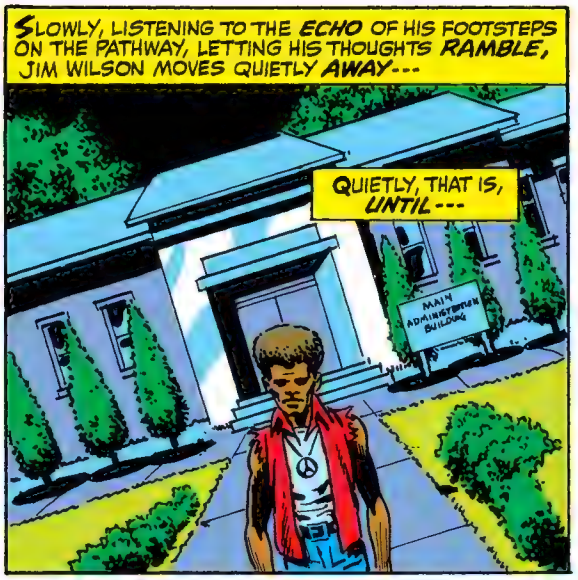

AND MILES AWAY, ACROSS AN OCEAN AND HALF A CONTINENT, ONE SEGMENT OF OUR STORY IS ABOUT TO BE RESOLVED---

NOK!
GENERAL T. E. ROSS
NOK!
YES, BLAST IT? WHO'S THERE?

WILSON! BOY, DIDN'T I TELL YOU---
I KNOW WHAT YOU TOLD ME, GENERAL.
RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT SOME THINGS TO TELL YOU.

THAT FLYBOY DRIVER YOU SENT TO TAKE ME TO LOS ANGELES?
"THUNDERBOLT" I'VE GOT A BIT OF BAAAAD NEWS FOR YOU---
HE WAS WHAT YOU CALL--- AN ANDROID!
WAS?
YOU GOT IT!
RIGHT NOW-- HE'S DEAD!

LORD, SON-- I NEVER REALIZED!
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN THROUGH ---A TERRIBLE ORDEAL.
TAKE MY WORD, SON--- I DIDN'T KNOW---
--- BUT I AIM TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT'S GOING ON!
GENERAL, THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER ASKED.


SLOWLY, LISTENING TO THE ECHO OF HIS FOOTSTEPS ON THE PATHWAY, LETTING HIS THOUGHTS RAMBLE, JIM WILSON MOVES QUIETLY AWAY---
QUIETLY, THAT IS, UNTIL---
MAIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

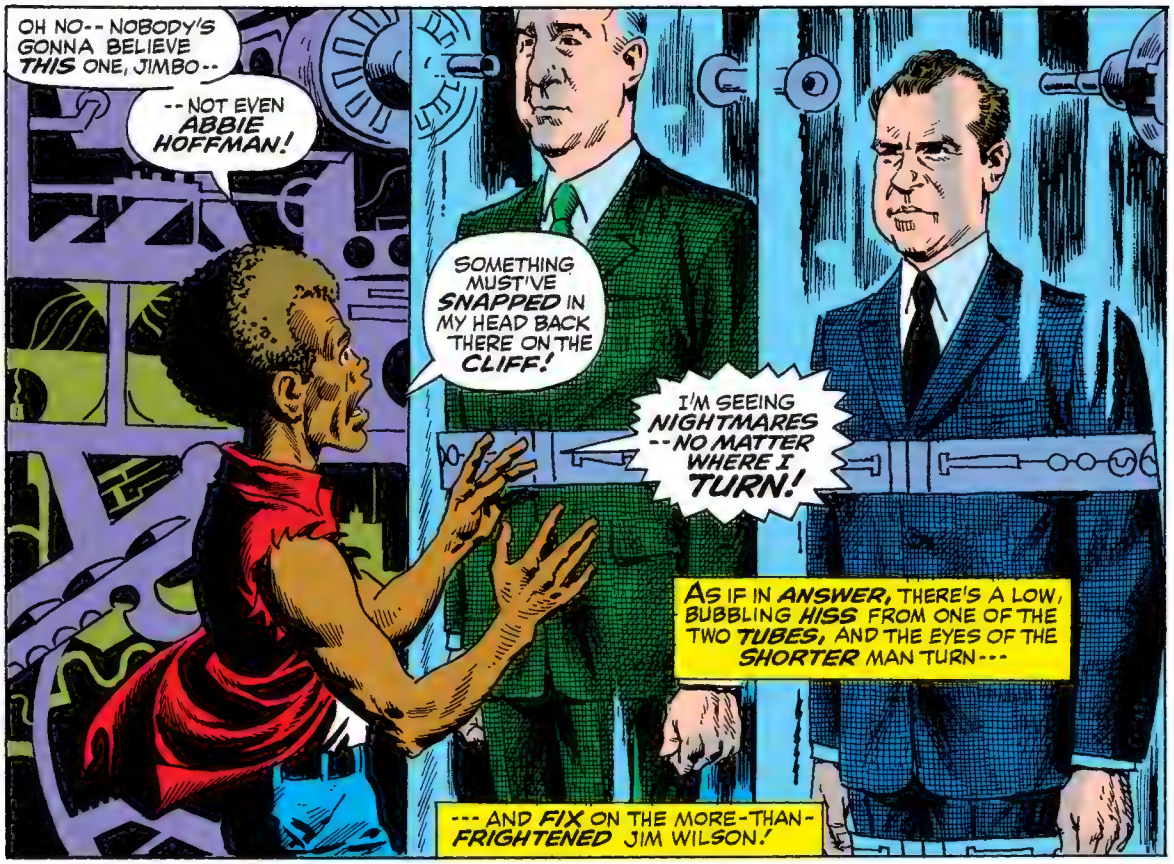
HEY! I AM ONE PRIZE-WINNING FLIP-OUT!
MUST'VE BEEN IN A STATE OF SHOCK OR SOMETHING---
GOING TO GENERAL ROSS--

--THE GUY WHO ORDERED THAT ANDROID TO TAKE ME FOR A RIDE.
---AND IT'S UP TO YOU TO STRAIGHTEN 'EM OUT--
JIMBO, YOU MAY HAVE REALLY FOULED THINGS UP---

YEAH. YOU'RE GONNA DO THAT, RIGHT?
TELL ME HOW--- WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND THE OFFICE YOU JUST CAME FROM?

SHOOT. HERE I WAS GONNA GO SNEAK AND EAVES-DROP--
--AND I GET MYSELF LOST IN THE BASE-MENT.
SHOULD'A GOTTEN LOST ON MY WAY BACK TO THE BASE--ALL THOSE SIDE ROADS--
--WAIT! WHAT'S THAT--BACK IN THE SHADOWS--?

SOMETHING GLISTENING---
--- SOME-THING LIKE TWO PE---
KEE-RIPES!


OH NO-- NOBODY'S GONNA BELIEVE THIS ONE, JIMBO--
--NOT EVEN ABBIE HOFFMAN!
SOMETHING MUST'VE SNAPPED IN MY HEAD BACK THERE ON THE CLIFF!
I'M SEEING NIGHTMARES --NO MATTER WHERE I TURN!
AS IF IN ANSWER, THERE'S A LOW, BUBBLING HISS FROM ONE OF THE TWO TUBES, AND THE EYES OF THE SHORTER MAN TURN---
--- AND FIX ON THE MORE-THAN-FRIGHTENED JIM WILSON!

HEART RACING, JIM SWAYS, THE BEGINNINGS OF A SHOUT BOILING UP FROM HIS CHEST. THEN HIS NERVE BREAKS, AND JIM WILSON BOLTS---
THIS IS ONE NEWS-FLASH I CAN'T KEEP TO MYSELF!
IF ONLY 'CAUSE I'M NOT SURE I'VE SEEN IT!
GOTTA FIND SOMEBODY-- SHOW THEM---

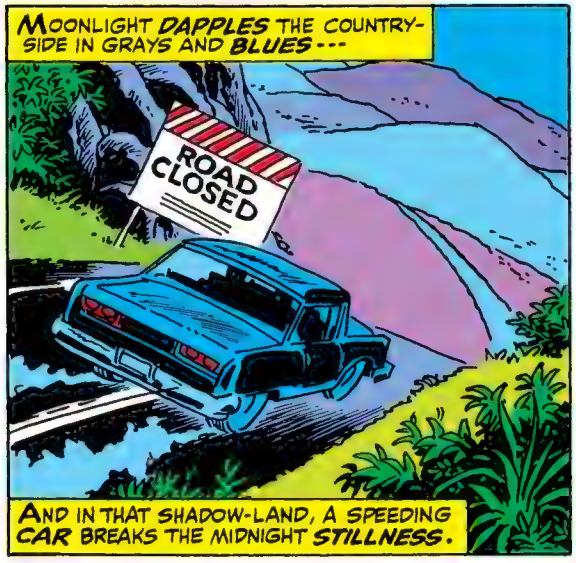
WHOA, LAD--- CALM DOWN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?
MAJOR TALBOT!
IF EVER A GUY NEEDED A FELLOW THINKER--!
MAJOR, YOU'VE GOTTA COME WITH ME--

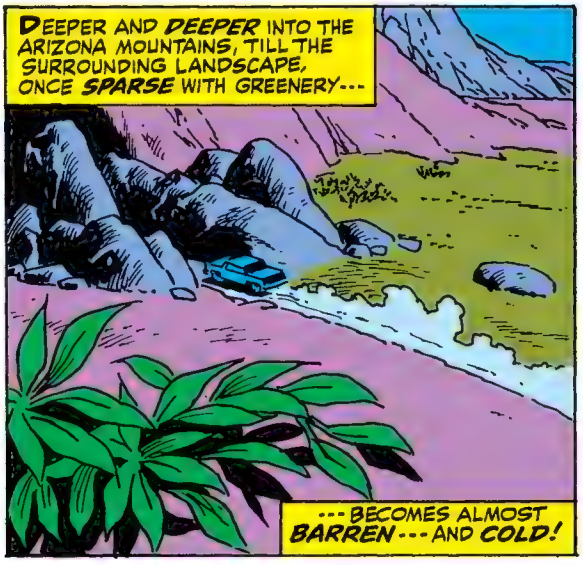
EASY, SON.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE A FEVER---
--PLEASE, MAJOR.
YEAH, WELL, MAYBE I DO. BUT TELL ME, SIR--

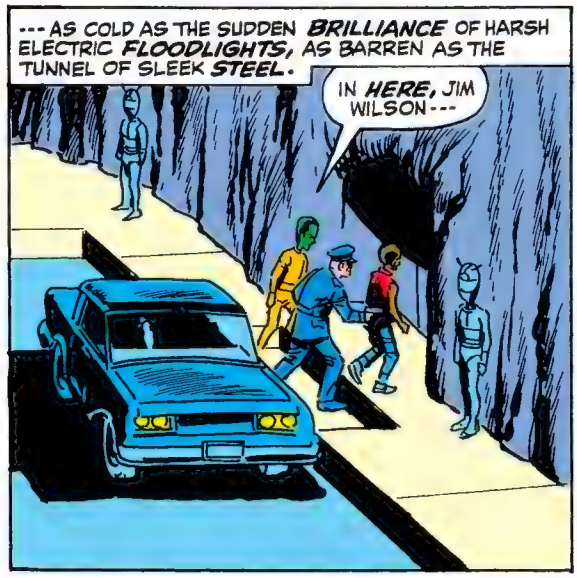
TELL ME I'M SUFFERIN' FROM A CONCUSSION, MAJOR TALBOT.
--CAN A FEVER EXPLAIN AWAY THAT?
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE NOT, WILSON.
HUH?
THEN--YOU KNOW ABOUT THOSE BIRDS?
EXACTLY. THOSE "BIRDS" AS YOU SO QUAINTLY PHRASE IT---
--ARE BUT A PART OF AN OVERALL PLAN!
PLAN?
MAJOR, MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LISTENING---
--OR MAYBE IT'S JUST ME.
THOSE GUYS---
---ARE ANDROID DUPLICATES OF THE ORIGINALS.
AND WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN I?
FOR--DID I NOT MAKE THEM?
IS NOT MINE THE INTELLECT SUPREME?
YES, JIM WILSON--- I HEARD YOU---
HOLY CRUD!
---AND YOU'LL PRAY I NEVER DID!
IT'S THE LEADER!
19.

RUN IF YOU MUST, JIM WILSON.
YOU PROVIDE ME WITH AMUSEMENT. BUT DO NOT THINK I I'VE FORGOTTEN THE DEBT I OWE YOU---
--A DEBT THAT SHALL AMPLY BE REPAID!

---ISN'T THAT CORRECT, "GENERAL ROSS"?
NO!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE--!
PRECISELY, MASTER.
SHALL I I PAY IT--- NOW?
BUT IT IS, JIM WILSON.
IT IS!

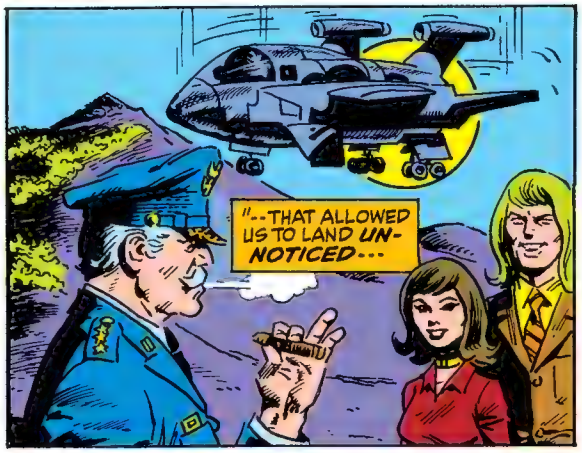

MOONLIGHT DAPPLES THE COUNTRY-SIDE IN GRAYS AND BLUES---
ROAD CLOSED
AND IN THAT SHADOW-LAND, A SPEEDING CAR BREAKS THE MIDNIGHT STILLNESS.


DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE ARIZONA MOUNTAINS, TILL THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE, ONCE SPARSE WITH GREENERY---
---BECOMES ALMOST BARREN---AND COLD!

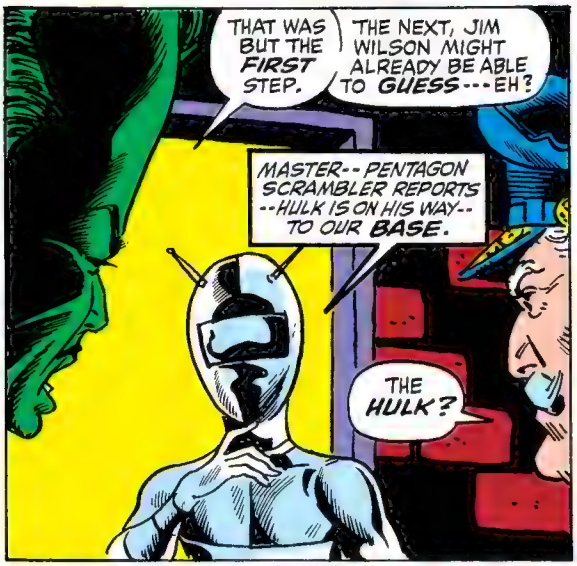

---AS COLD AS THE SUDDEN BRILLIANCE OF HARSH ELECTRIC FLOODLIGHTS, AS BARREN AS THE TUNNEL OF SLEEK STEEL.
IN HERE, JIM WILSON---

--I HOPE YOU DON'T FIND THE AMENITIES-- TOO MEAN.
JIM!
THAT KILLS IT-- THEY'VE GOT YOU TOO?
APPARENTLY, GENERAL--- WE'VE HAD IT.

"--AND THE GENERAL CAN'T POSSIBLY REMEMBER THE SPRAY OF GAS THAT IMMOBILIZED THEM ALL THIS PAST AFTERNOON---



"---AND SUMMARILY REPLACE GENERAL ROSS WITH AN ANDROID--- ONE WHOSE TEMPERAMENT PROVED ILL-SUITED TO THE TASK, I MIGHT ADD."


THAT WAS BUT THE FIRST STEP.
THE NEXT, JIM WILSON MIGHT ALREADY BE ABLE TO GUESS---EH?
MASTER--PENTAGON SCRAMBLER REPORTS --HULK IS ON HIS WAY-- TO OUR BASE.
THE HULK?

THIS SHOULD PROVE MOST AMUSING. "ROSS", FIND OUT THE DETAILS.
IF THINGS PROCEED THE WAY I THINK THEY WILL---
TOMORROW, BEFORE THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT--
--WE KILL THE HULK!
21.

NEXT: AND THEN--THE HOLOCAUST!

INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢ CC
147 JAN 02456
THE INCREDIBLE HULK™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NEW! THE SHOCKER YOU THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER SEE!!
DESTROY THEM, MONSTER-- NOW!!
YES! HULK WILL GET THEM! HULK WILL SMASH!!
IF AMERICA IS TO LIVE --
THE HULK MUST DIE!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

UNKNOWN TO THE TWO WELL-DRESSED, MIDDLE-AGED MEN ON THE *PODIUM*, THINGS ARE NOT QUITE WHAT THEY *SEEM* TO BE AT THIS SPECIAL *ARIZONA BASE*...ESPECIALLY NOT *WHOM* THEY SEEM TO BE...SINCE ALMOST ALL *ARMY PERSONNEL* HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY... *ANDROIDS!*

THE END OF DOC SAMSON!

STAN LEE, EDITOR, PRESENTS:

GERRY CONWAY & HERB TRIMPE
WRITER ARTIST

JOHN SEVERIN
INKER

SAM ROSEN
LETTERER

GENERAL ROSS--- I TRUST YOU CAN EXPLAIN THE DELAY IN THE *PROCEEDINGS?*

AFTER ALL, GENERAL, I *AM* THE PRESIDENT--

YES, *SIR.* BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S JUST *NO WAY* TO MAKE A JET MOVE ANY *FASTER*--

--AND THE ONE BRINGING THE *HULK* TO THIS BASE IS MOVING PRETTY FAST JUST AS IT *IS!*

IN THE MEANTIME, MAYBE I SHOULD EXPLAIN OUR *LATEST* LITTLE BRAINCHILD.

THE MARK TWELVE SONIC DEPRESSOR!

THIS IS THE BABY THAT'S GONNA *DESTROY THE HULK!*

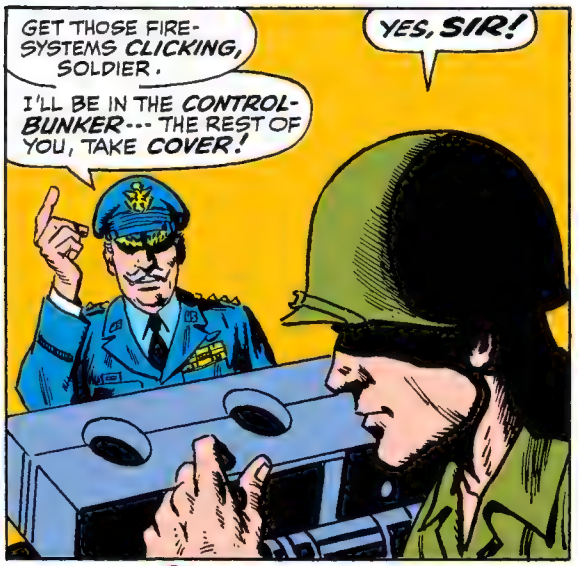
AND EVEN AS THE ANDROID WHO'S *REPLACED* "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS *SPEAKS*, A LOW *DRONING* BECOMES AUDIBLE IN THE EASTERN *SKY*...

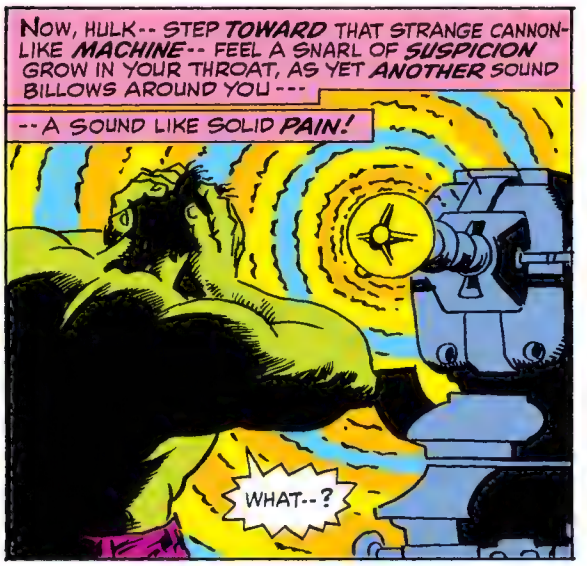
7482

--AND IN THE PINK-WASHED RAYS OF MORNING SUNLIGHT, A BLACK SPECK GROWS, UNTIL---
THE PLANE!
WE'VE BEEN COUNTING THE MINUTES SINCE HE JUMPED THAT PLANE IN TEL-AVIV--!
YEP! THERE ON THE WING-- THAT'S--
THE HULK!
HULK IS TIRED. HOW LONG HAS HULK BEEN UP HERE?
IT WAS NIGHT JUST A WHILE AGO---
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MOON?
YOU MEN-- HOLD YOUR FIRE.
THERE'RE PASSENGERS ABOARD THAT PLANE---
WE CAN'T CHANCE ANY-THING-- BUT THE SONIC GUN!
HULK KNOWS THIS PLACE-- HULK HAS BEEN HERE BEFORE.
SO HARD TO REMEMBER -- WHY DOESN'T IT COME EASY FOR THE HULK?
WAIT-- NOW HULK REMEMBERS--
--NOW HULK KNOWS!
THERE ARE ONES WHO TRIED TO HURT HULK!
BUT HULK WILL BE HURT--NO MORE!
CHOOOM!
2

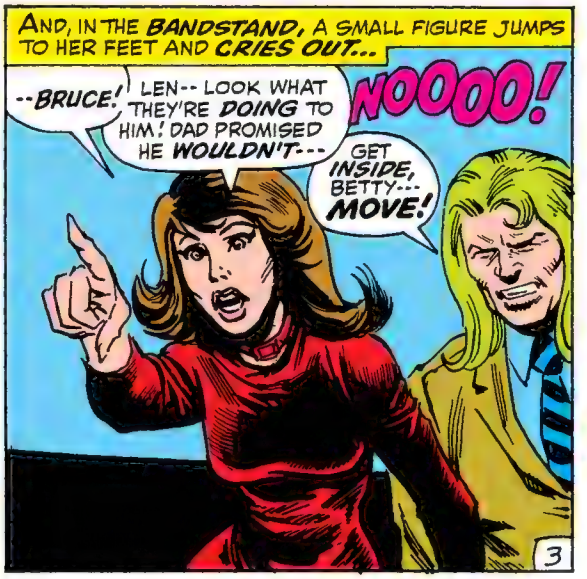
CAREFUL, SIR. THIS LOOKS DANGEROUS.
I'M AWARE OF THAT, GENTLEMEN.
EVERYTHING IS PERFECTLY CLEAR.
JUST STAY BACK, SIR--- PLEASE!

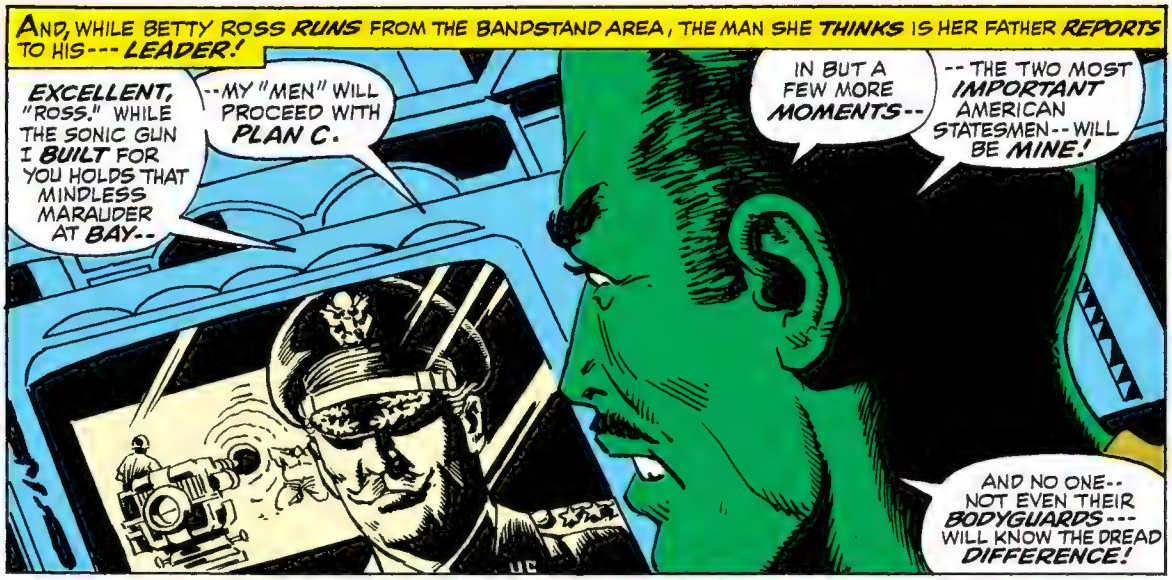
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. PRESIDENT.
MY BOYS CAN HANDLE THIS MONSTER-- WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE!
THIS IS ONE ACTION I'M GOING TO SUPERVISE PERSONALLY.

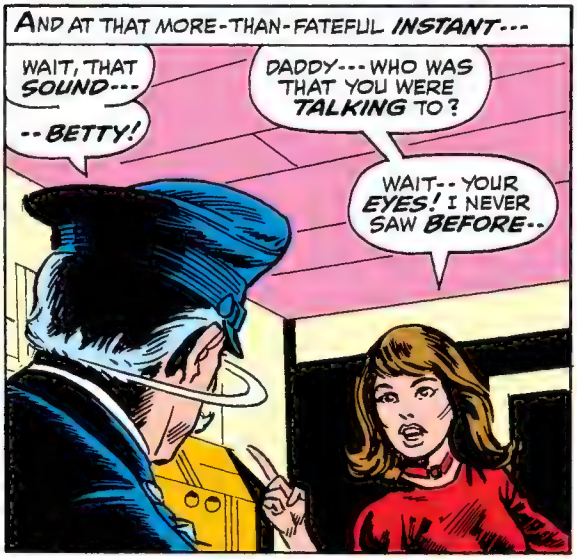

GET THOSE FIRE-SYSTEMS CLICKING, SOLDIER.
YES, SIR!
I'LL BE IN THE CONTROL-BUNKER--- THE REST OF YOU, TAKE COVER!


NOW, HULK-- STEP TOWARD THAT STRANGE CANNON-LIKE MACHINE-- FEEL A SNARL OF SUSPICION GROW IN YOUR THROAT, AS YET ANOTHER SOUND BILLOWS AROUND YOU---
--A SOUND LIKE SOLID PAIN!
WHAT--?

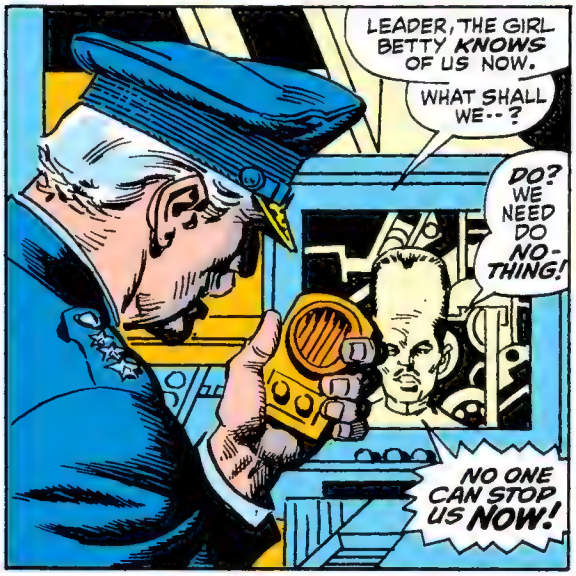
AAAARRGHH!
NO! SOMETHING-- BURNING HULK--- --CUTTING INTO HIS EARS!
HEAD-- FEELS LIKE SPLITTING-- WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HULK?
EEEEEEEE

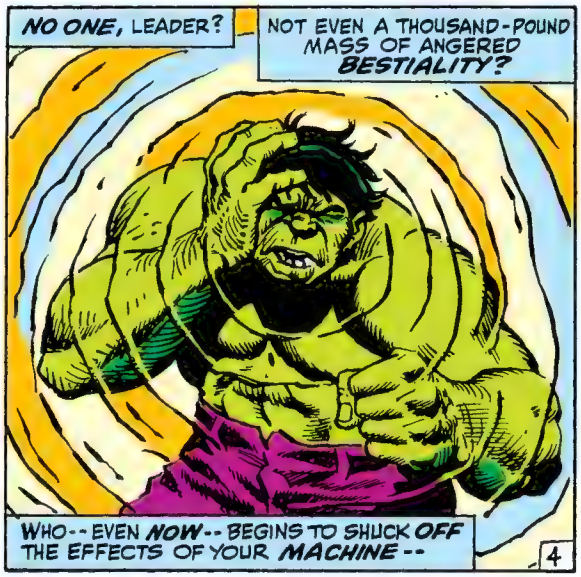

AND, IN THE BANDSTAND, A SMALL FIGURE JUMPS TO HER FEET AND CRIES OUT...
--BRUCE!
LEN-- LOOK WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO HIM! DAD PROMISED HE WOULDN'T---
NOOOO!
GET INSIDE, BETTY--- MOVE!


AND, WHILE BETTY ROSS RUNS FROM THE BANDSTAND AREA, THE MAN SHE THINKS IS HER FATHER REPORTS TO HIS--- LEADER!
EXCELLENT, "ROSS." WHILE THE SONIC GUN I BUILT FOR YOU HOLDS THAT MINDLESS MARAUDER AT BAY--
--MY "MEN" WILL PROCEED WITH PLAN C.
IN BUT A FEW MORE MOMENTS--
--THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN STATESMEN--WILL BE MINE!
AND NO ONE-- NOT EVEN THEIR BODYGUARDS--- WILL KNOW THE DREAD DIFFERENCE!


AND AT THAT MORE-THAN-FATEFUL INSTANT---
WAIT, THAT SOUND---
--BETTY!
DADDY--- WHO WAS THAT YOU WERE TALKING TO?
WAIT-- YOUR EYES! I NEVER SAW BEFORE--

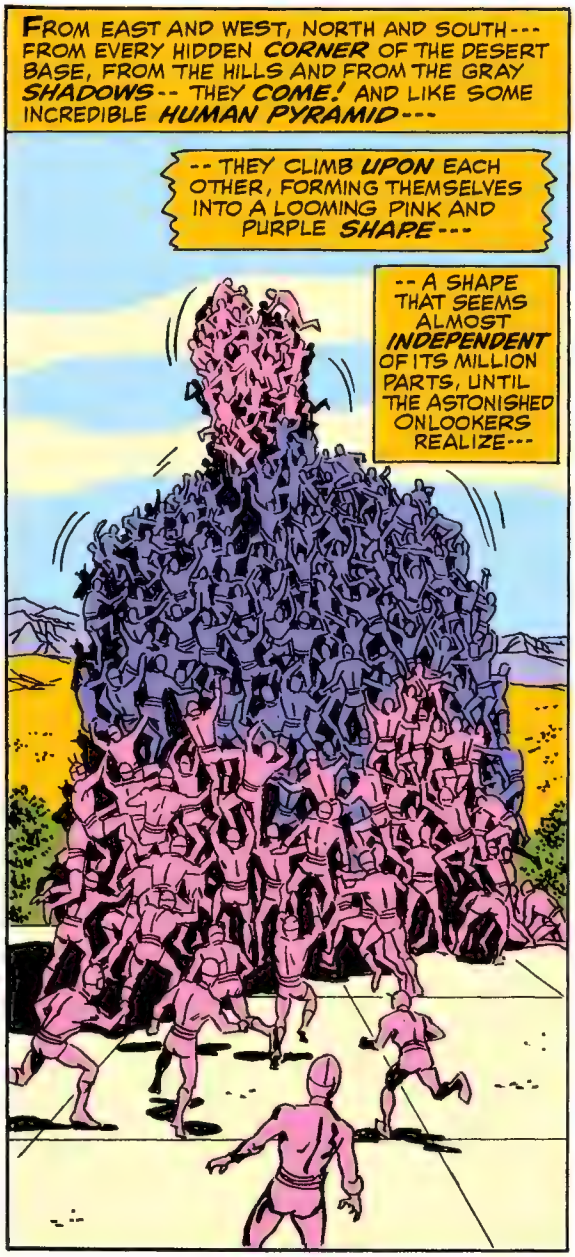
--THAT I'M NOT YOUR FATHER?
A PITY YOU NOTICED IT NOW, GIRL.
IT WILL NECESSITATE YOUR PROMPT REMOVAL!
WOK!


LEADER, THE GIRL BETTY KNOWS OF US NOW.
WHAT SHALL WE--?
DO? WE NEED DO NO-THING!
NO ONE CAN STOP US NOW!

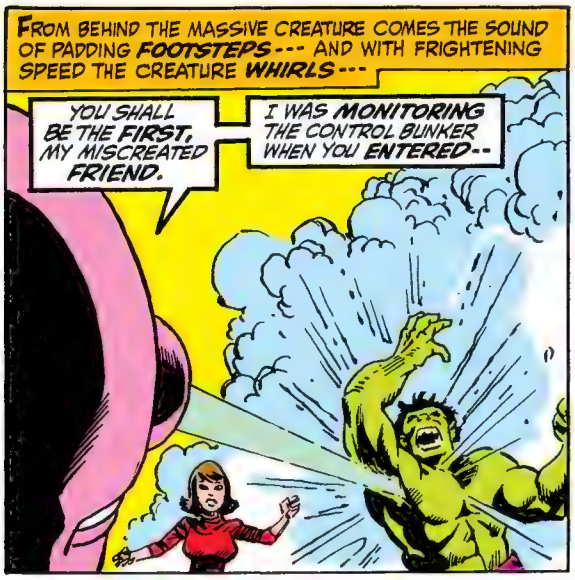

NO ONE, LEADER?
NOT EVEN A THOUSAND-POUND MASS OF ANGERED BESTIALITY?
WHO-- EVEN NOW-- BEGINS TO SHUCK OFF THE EFFECTS OF YOUR MACHINE--

--AND ATTACKS!
YOU!
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO HUNTS HULK! YOU ARE THE ONE WHO GIVES HIM PAIN!
HULK HAS WANTED TO DO THIS FOR A LONG TIME!
NOW HULK WILL SMASH--
WHAT?
WHOMP!
NOOOOO!
HULK-- DOES NOT-- UNDERSTAND.
WHY IS ROSS IN PIECES-- LIKE BROKEN CLOCK?
THE MAN WHO PRETENDED TO BE MY FATHER--A ROBOT?
THAT'S RIGHT, BETTY-- IT'S SOMETHING I KNEW ALL ALONG.
I JUST WANTED TO WAIT TILL THE HULK GOT HERE---
--BECAUSE NOW-- WE NEED HIM!
YOUR MIND GROWS MORE CONFUSED AT DOC SAMSON'S WORDS, HULK. YOU WANT TO SHUT OUT ALL SOUND---
---ESPECIALLY THE DISTANT SOUND OF A THOUSAND FEET MARCHING---
---MARCHING ---OUTSIDE!
5

SIR--- THAT TUMULTUOUS TURMOIL OF TENACIOUS THOUSANDS--
--WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
IF YOU SAID WHAT I THINK YOU SAID, SPIRO---
--I DON'T KNOW!


FROM EAST AND WEST, NORTH AND SOUTH--- FROM EVERY HIDDEN CORNER OF THE DESERT BASE, FROM THE HILLS AND FROM THE GRAY SHADOWS-- THEY COME! AND LIKE SOME INCREDIBLE HUMAN PYRAMID---
-- THEY CLIMB UPON EACH OTHER, FORMING THEMSELVES INTO A LOOMING PINK AND PURPLE SHAPE---
-- A SHAPE THAT SEEMS ALMOST INDEPENDENT OF ITS MILLION PARTS, UNTIL THE ASTONISHED ONLOOKERS REALIZE---

--IT IS!
I--AM--THE LEADER!
HIS THOUGHTS ARE MY THOUGHTS ---HIS MIND, MY MIND!
WE DID NOT WISH THIS ACTION -- BUT NOW, THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE!
OUR PLAN MUST SUCCEED--AND FOR IT TO SUCCEED---
-- YOU ALL MUST DIE!!
6

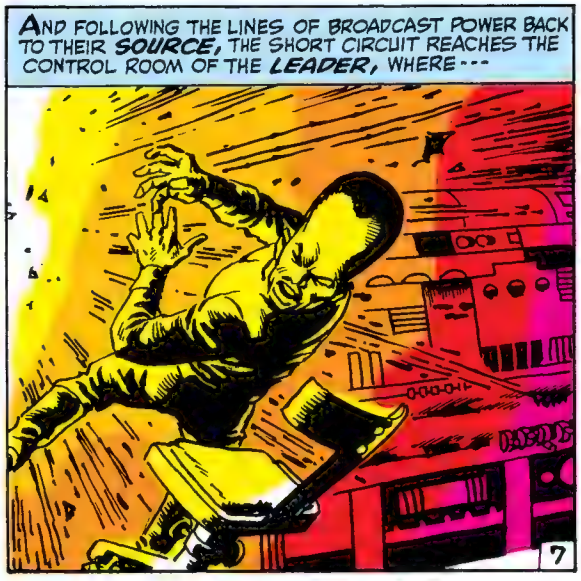

FROM BEHIND THE MASSIVE CREATURE COMES THE SOUND OF PADDING FOOTSTEPS--- AND WITH FRIGHTENING SPEED THE CREATURE WHIRLS---
YOU SHALL BE THE FIRST, MY MISCREATED FRIEND.
I WAS MONITORING THE CONTROL BUNKER WHEN YOU ENTERED--

--JUST AS I MONITOR NOW THROUGH THIS CREATION'S EYES---
--AND OBSERVE-- YOUR DEATH!
FUNNY GLOW FROM EYES--
--BLASTING HULK! WHY--- CAN IT HURT HIM?

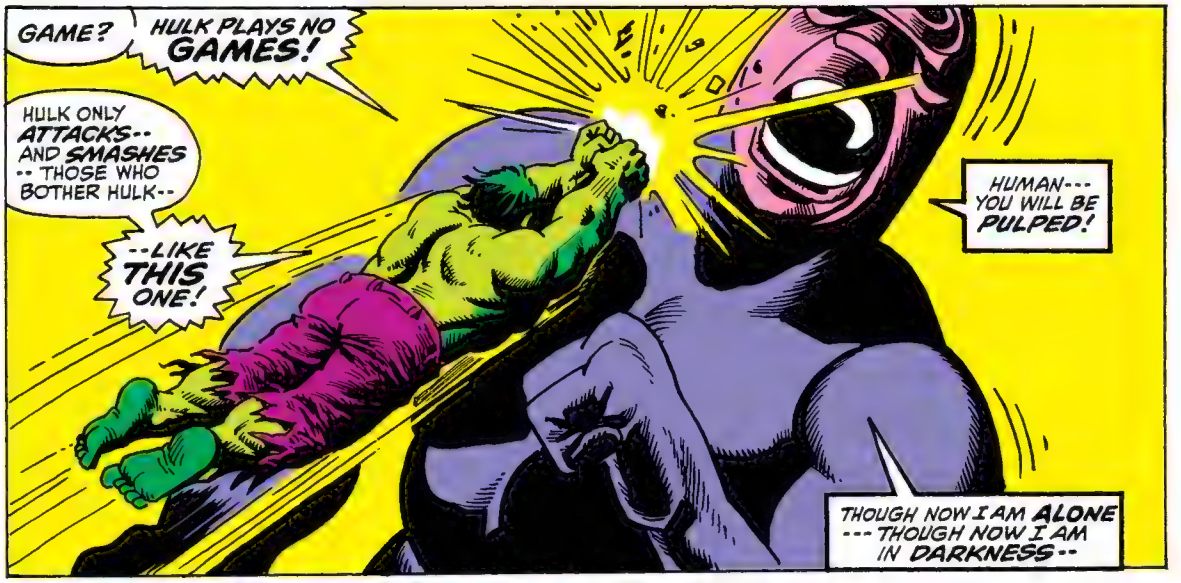
-- BECAUSE THOSE ARE GAMMA RAYS, HULK!
THE LEADER'S TRYING TO GIVE YOU A FATAL OVERDOSE---
--AND THAT'S SOME-THING--

-- I CAN'T LET HAPPEN!
MAYBE 'CAUSE I OWE-- A MAN CALLED BANNER!
THE RAYS-- RETURNING--!

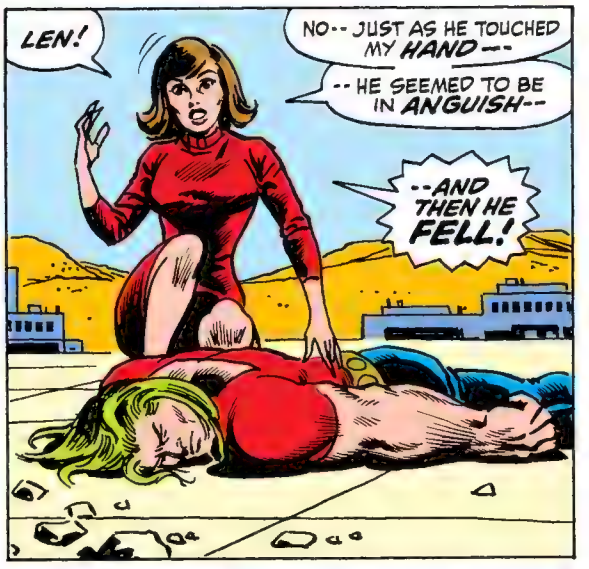
SAMSON'S BODY IS TOO FRESH-- NOT WEARY LIKE THE HULK'S!
TOO MUCH POWER BEING RETURNED-- OVERLOADING ALL MY CIRCUITS--
--NOOOOOOO!


AND FOLLOWING THE LINES OF BROADCAST POWER BACK TO THEIR SOURCE, THE SHORT CIRCUIT REACHES THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE LEADER, WHERE---

STUNNED, THE EMERALD-SKINNED CARICATURE OF A MAN DROPS TO HIS KNEES---
--AND AS HIS CONSCIOUSNESS DRAINS---
--SO DO HIS HOPES --AND HIS PLANS!
TALBOT-- THAT SUDDEN FLASH OF LIGHT---
MAN, DID IT DO WHAT I THINK IT DID?
EXACTLY, GENERAL.
MORE THAN JUST A FEW LIGHT BULBS ARE OUT, NOW--!
THEN DON'T STAND THERE, WIGGLIN' YOUR EARS LIKE A BLASTED MULE!
YOU SAW THOSE ANDROIDS--
--LET'S GET A MOVE ON!
MAYBE WE'D BETTER STOP WORRYING ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS, GENERAL ---LOOK!
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, COLONEL.
WHATEVER POWER-SURGE KNOCKED OUT THAT ANDROID GUARD---
"--MAY HAVE HAD QUITE AN OPPOSITE EFFECT ON THE LEADER'S OTHER CREATIONS!"
IF YOU COULD HEAR TALBOT'S WORDS-- WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN, HULK--?
WOULD YOU CARE?
STOPPED-- THOSE BLASTED RAYS, BANNER.
AFRAID I'VE-- STOPPED MY-SELF, AS WELL!
GETTING HARD TO KEEP MYSELF UPRIGHT --IT'S YOUR GAME NOW!
8

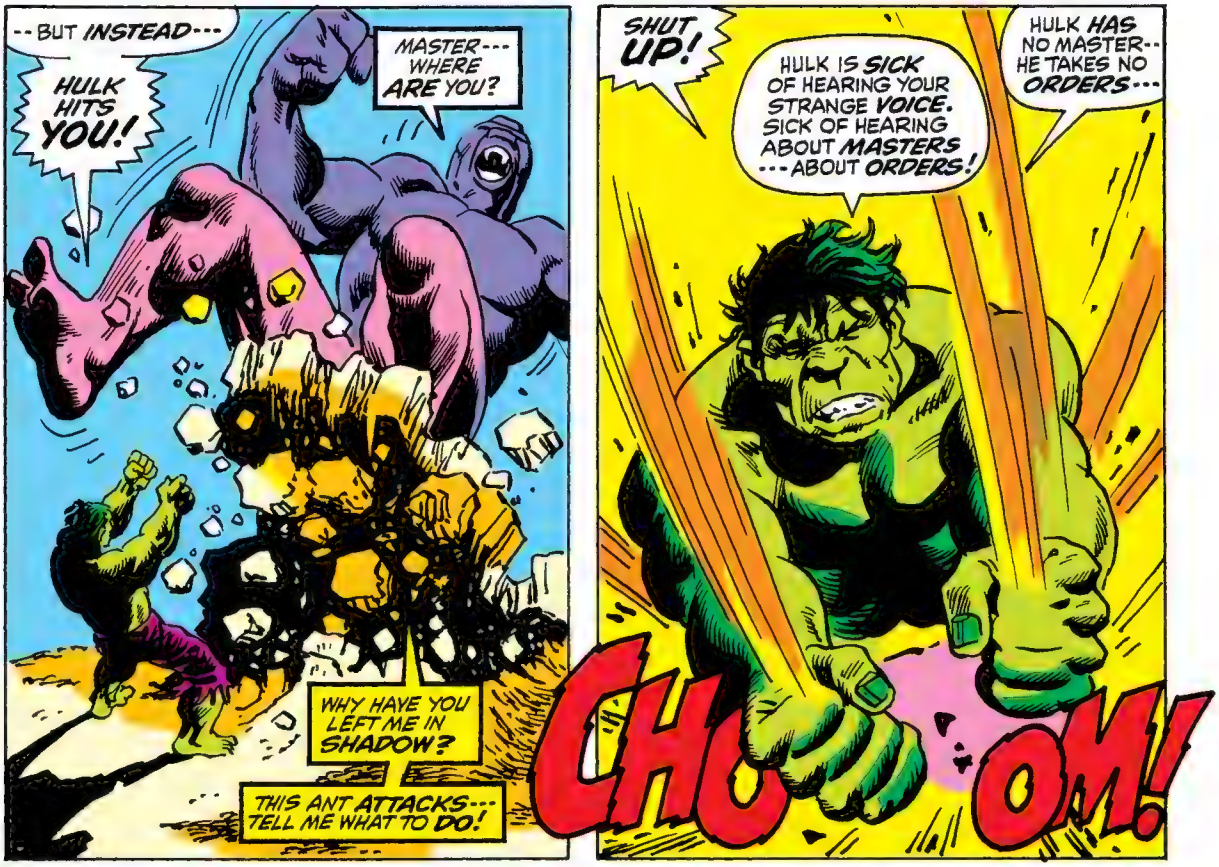

GAME?
HULK PLAYS NO GAMES!
HULK ONLY ATTACKS-- AND SMASHES -- THOSE WHO BOTHER HULK--
--LIKE THIS ONE!
HUMAN--- YOU WILL BE PULPED!
THOUGH NOW I AM ALONE --- THOUGH NOW I AM IN DARKNESS--

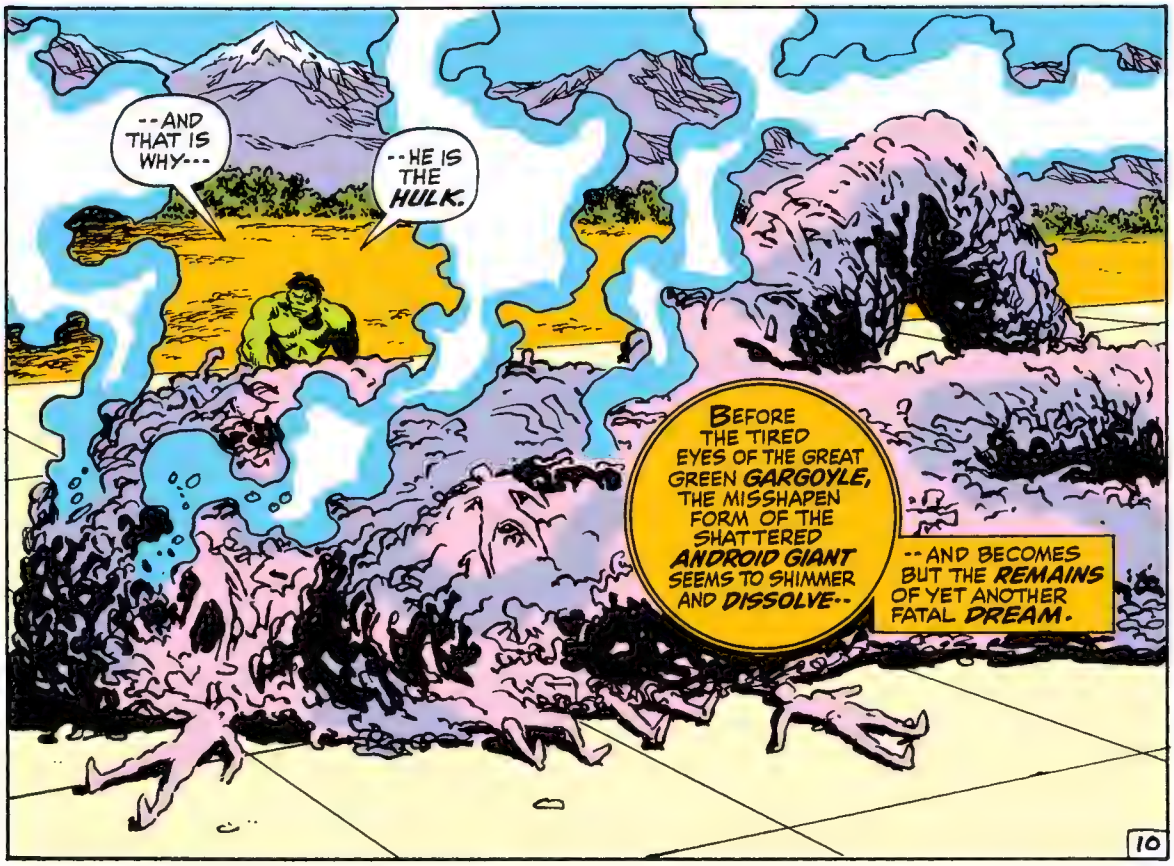
-- I CAN STILL DESTROY!
=UH!= BIG THING STRONG!
BUT NOT -- STRONG ENOUGH!


LEN!
NO-- JUST AS HE TOUCHED MY HAND ---
-- HE SEEMED TO BE IN ANGUISH--
--AND THEN HE FELL!

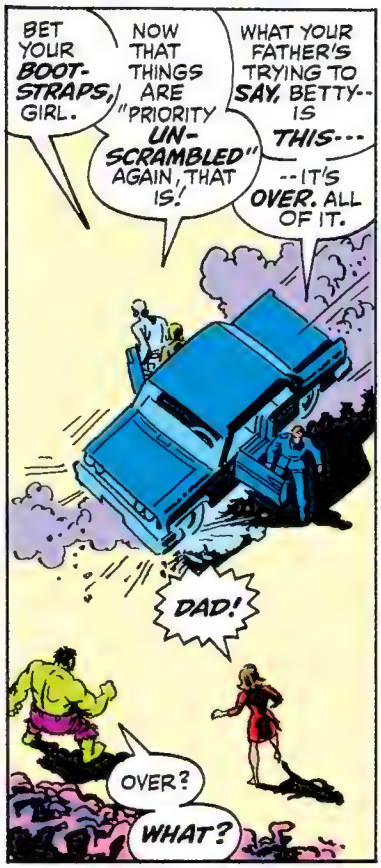
THE SITUATION APPEARS CLEAR, SPIRO.
SAMSON NEEDS HELP-- AND THE HULK MAY BE FIGHTING HIS LAST BATTLE!
NOW IF ONLY KISSINGER WERE HERE--!

WORDS! EVERYONE SPEAKS WORDS AT HULK.
WHAT DOES HULK WANT WITH YOUR WORDS?
LOOK-- YOU TRY TO HIT HULK--


--BUT INSTEAD---
HULK HITS YOU!
MASTER--- WHERE ARE YOU?
WHY HAVE YOU LEFT ME IN SHADOW?
THIS ANT ATTACKS--- TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
SHUT UP!
HULK IS SICK OF HEARING YOUR STRANGE VOICE. SICK OF HEARING ABOUT MASTERS ---ABOUT ORDERS!
HULK HAS NO MASTER-- HE TAKES NO ORDERS---
CHOOM!


--AND THAT IS WHY---
--HE IS THE HULK.
BEFORE THE TIRED EYES OF THE GREAT GREEN GARGOYLE, THE MISSHAPEN FORM OF THE SHATTERED ANDROID GIANT SEEMS TO SHIMMER AND DISSOLVE--
--AND BECOMES BUT THE REMAINS OF YET ANOTHER FATAL DREAM.

FOR A MOMENT THE SUN-DRENCHED VALLEY IS SILENT, SAVE FOR THE WHISPER OF A DYING DESERT BREEZE, A GENTLE WIND THAT STEALS THE STENCH OF THINGS UN-ALIVE, AND RETURNS IT TO THE WASTE-LAND FAR BEYOND---
-- AND THEN, THAT SILENCE IS ABRUPTLY TORN OPEN-- BY THE EAR-THROBBING SOUND OF A MULTI-TON EXPLOSION!
THE LEADER'S LAB-- OVERBURDENED WITH REVERSED ENERGY--DIES!
WHAT? MORE FIGHTING?
NO-- SOMEHOW, I KNOW-- FOR NOW, THANK GOD, THE FIGHTING'S OVER!

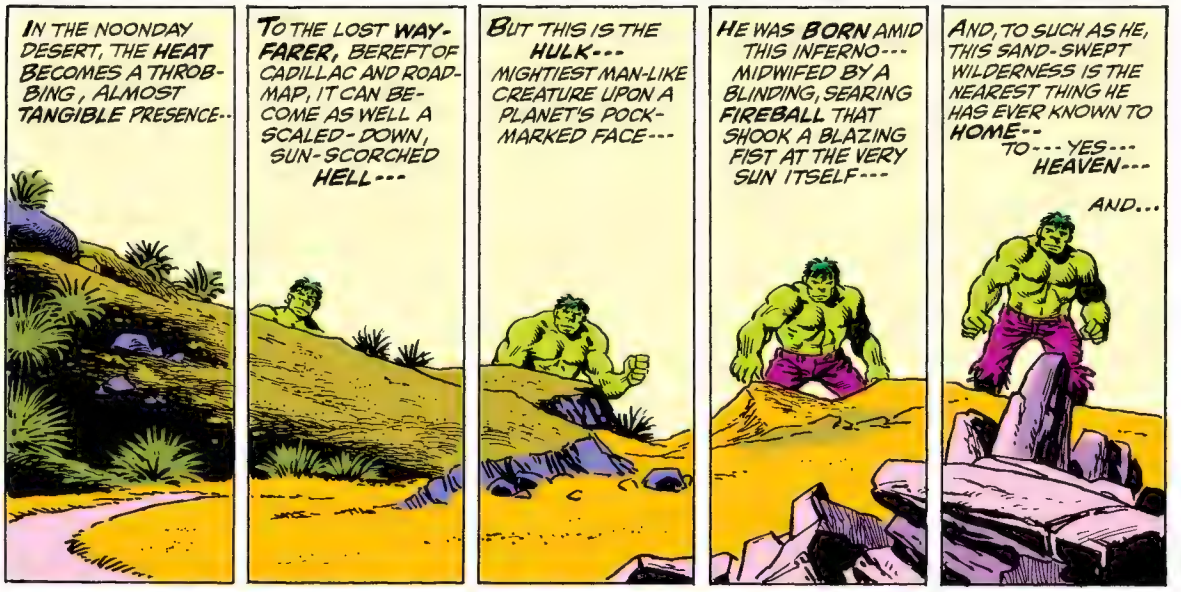

BET YOUR BOOT-STRAPS, GIRL.
NOW THAT THINGS ARE "PRIORITY UN-SCRAMBLED" AGAIN, THAT IS!
WHAT YOUR FATHER'S TRYING TO SAY, BETTY-- IS THIS---
--IT'S OVER. ALL OF IT.
DAD!
OVER?
WHAT?

MAYBE THE MAN INSIDE THAT SKIN WOULD UNDER-STAND, HULK.
SOMEHOW, THE LEADER ESCAPED THE INSANITY WE ALL THOUGHT HAD BROKEN HIM--*
--AND HE RETURNED-- AND REPLACED ALMOST HALF MY BASE!
-WITH ANDROIDS. HUNDREDS OF THEM.
*SHOWN IN HULK#139. --STAN

WE DIDN'T FIND OUT-- UNTIL BOTH OF US WERE CAPTURED.
PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THE MILITARY MIND-- MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THEY--EH?
GREAT SCOTT, SAMSON---
--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
11

EXCUSE THE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN HEROIC APPEARANCE, GENERAL ROSS---
-- BUT I'M AFRAID THE DOC SAMSON WHO SAVED THE HULK FROM THAT BATH OF GAMMA RAYS---
--IS DEAD!
LET'S NOT GO INTO THE TECHNOLOGY, SAMSON.
WE'LL ALL JUST BE THANKFUL YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL---
"WE"? GENERAL, SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!
MAYBE MY STRENGTH WAS TOO MUCH TO CONTROL, BUT NONE-THELESS---
QUIET!
HULK WANTS SILENCE!
ALWAYS, YOU RUN FROM HULK-- OR YOU RUN AT HIM!
NOW-- YOU PRETEND HULK ISN'T EVEN HERE!
HULK HAS FOUGHT ENOUGH TODAY--- AND EVERYBODY HULK FIGHTS IS CRAZY.
IT IS ENOUGH TO DRIVE HULK MAD!
MUSCLES RIPPLING LIKE LOOSENED STEEL BANDS, THE HULK LEAPS SKYWARD---
---AND SOON, HIS SNARL OF ANGER FADES---
---AND HE BECOMES ONE WITH THE DESERT SKY.
AND THOSE WHO ARE FOREVER EARTHBOUND LOOK FROM ONE TO ANOTHER---
--- AND, NEVER TRULY UNDERSTANDING, CAN ONLY WONDER WHY...!
-FINIS-
12

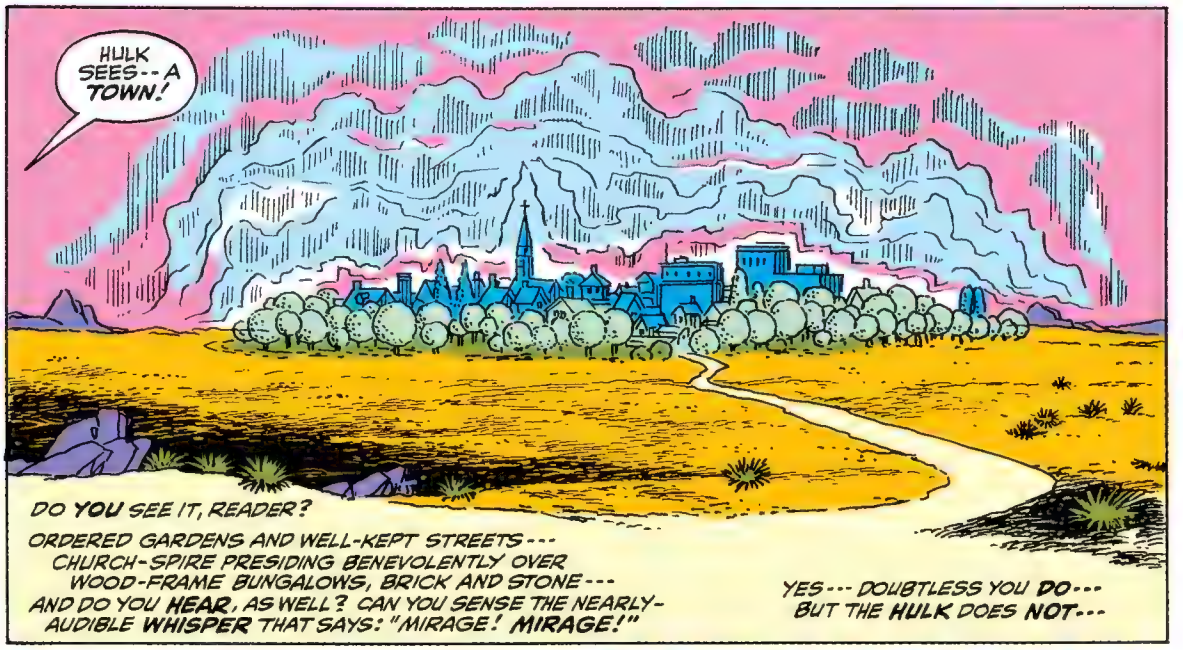
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

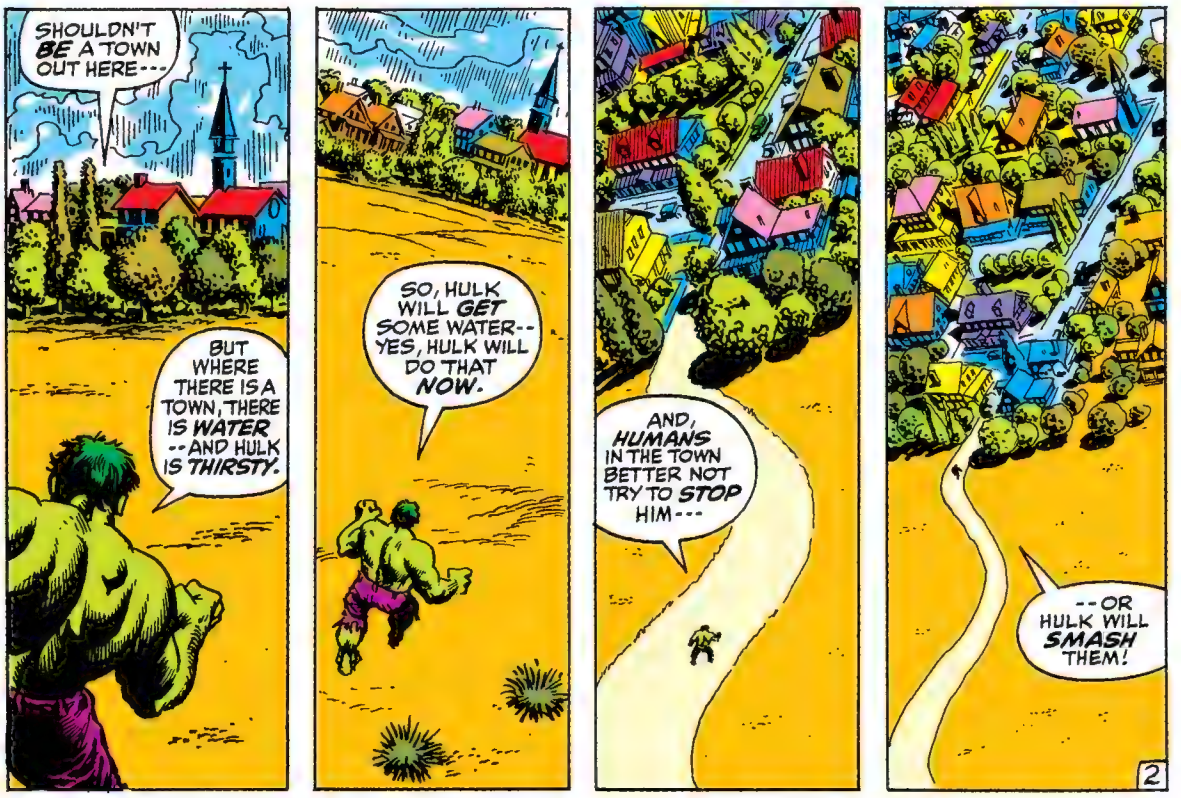

IN THE NOONDAY DESERT, THE HEAT BECOMES A THROBBING, ALMOST TANGIBLE PRESENCE--
TO THE LOST WAY-FARER, BEREFT OF CADILLAC AND ROAD-MAP, IT CAN BECOME AS WELL A SCALED-DOWN, SUN-SCORCHED HELL---
BUT THIS IS THE HULK--- MIGHTIEST MAN-LIKE CREATURE UPON A PLANET'S POCK-MARKED FACE---
HE WAS BORN AMID THIS INFERNO--- MIDWIFED BY A BLINDING, SEARING FIREBALL THAT SHOOK A BLAZING FIST AT THE VERY SUN ITSELF---
AND, TO SUCH AS HE, THIS SAND-SWEPT WILDERNESS IS THE NEAREST THING HE HAS EVER KNOWN TO HOME-- TO--- YES--- HEAVEN---
AND...

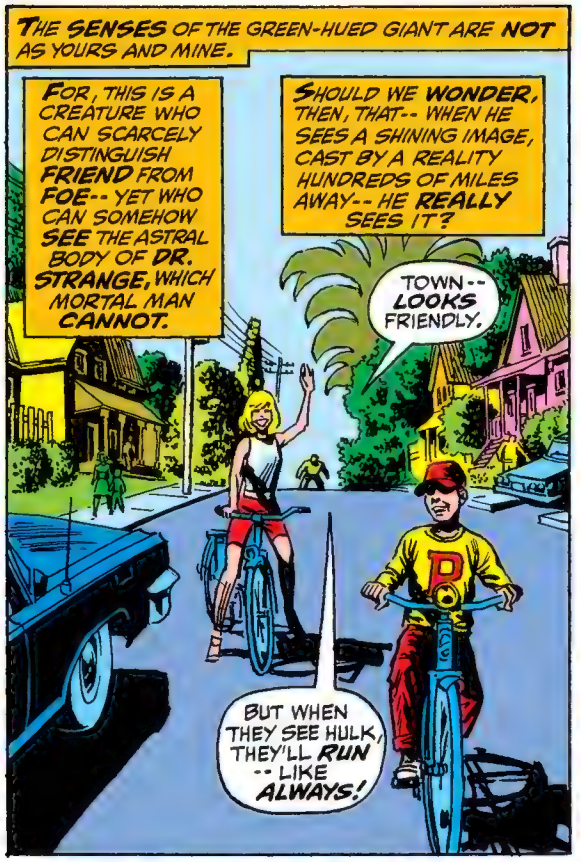
HEAVEN IS A VERY SMALL PLACE!

STAN LEE EDITOR ROY THOMAS WRITER HERB TRIMPE ARTIST JOHN SEVERIN INKER SAM ROSEN LETTERER

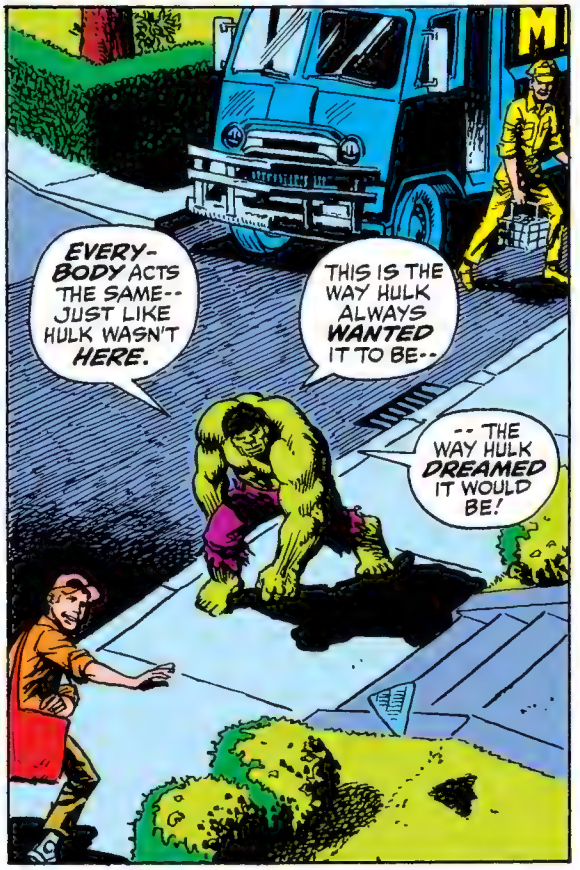
BUT NOW, HULK SEES SOMETHING---
-- SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T BELONG IN DESERT.

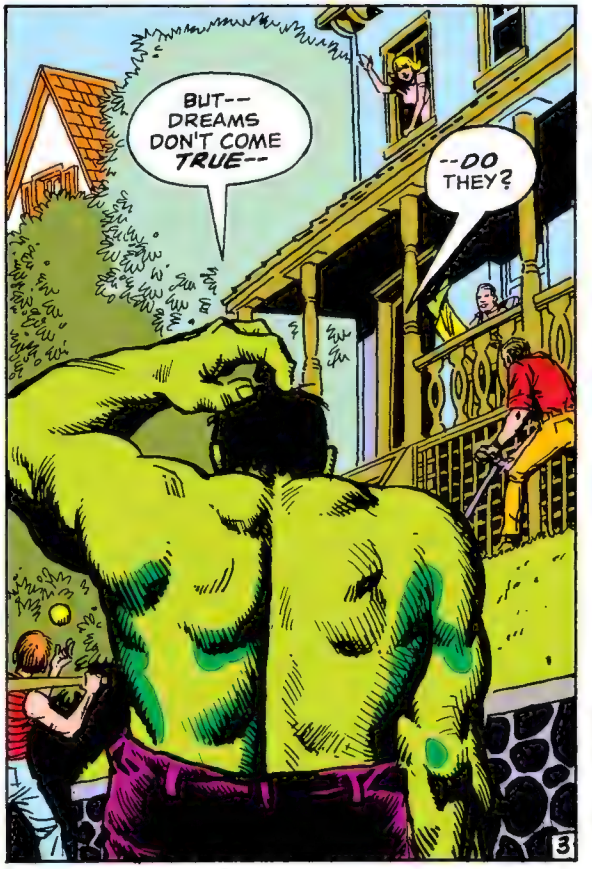

HULK SEES -- A TOWN!
DO YOU SEE IT, READER?
ORDERED GARDENS AND WELL-KEPT STREETS--- CHURCH-SPIRE PRESIDING BENEVOLENTLY OVER WOOD-FRAME BUNGALOWS, BRICK AND STONE---
AND DO YOU HEAR, AS WELL? CAN YOU SENSE THE NEARLY-AUDIBLE WHISPER THAT SAYS: "MIRAGE! MIRAGE!"
YES--- DOUBTLESS YOU DO--- BUT THE HULK DOES NOT---


SHOULDN'T BE A TOWN OUT HERE---
BUT WHERE THERE IS A TOWN, THERE IS WATER -- AND HULK IS THIRSTY.
SO, HULK WILL GET SOME WATER-- YES, HULK WILL DO THAT NOW.
AND, HUMANS IN THE TOWN BETTER NOT TRY TO STOP HIM---
-- OR HULK WILL SMASH THEM!
2


THE SENSES OF THE GREEN-HUED GIANT ARE NOT AS YOURS AND MINE.
FOR, THIS IS A CREATURE WHO CAN SCARCELY DISTINGUISH FRIEND FROM FOE-- YET WHO CAN SOMEHOW SEE THE ASTRAL BODY OF DR. STRANGE, WHICH MORTAL MAN CANNOT.
SHOULD WE WONDER, THEN, THAT-- WHEN HE SEES A SHINING IMAGE, CAST BY A REALITY HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY-- HE REALLY SEES IT?
TOWN-- LOOKS FRIENDLY.
BUT WHEN THEY SEE HULK, THEY'LL RUN -- LIKE ALWAYS!

HERE COMES ONE OF THE HUMANS NOW.
AS SOON AS HE NOTICES HULK, HE'LL --
HUH? HE JUST TIPS HIS HAT--- LIKE HULK WAS-- ANOTHER HUMAN.


EVERY-BODY ACTS THE SAME-- JUST LIKE HULK WASN'T HERE.
THIS IS THE WAY HULK ALWAYS WANTED IT TO BE--
-- THE WAY HULK DREAMED IT WOULD BE!


BUT-- DREAMS DON'T COME TRUE--
--DO THEY?
3

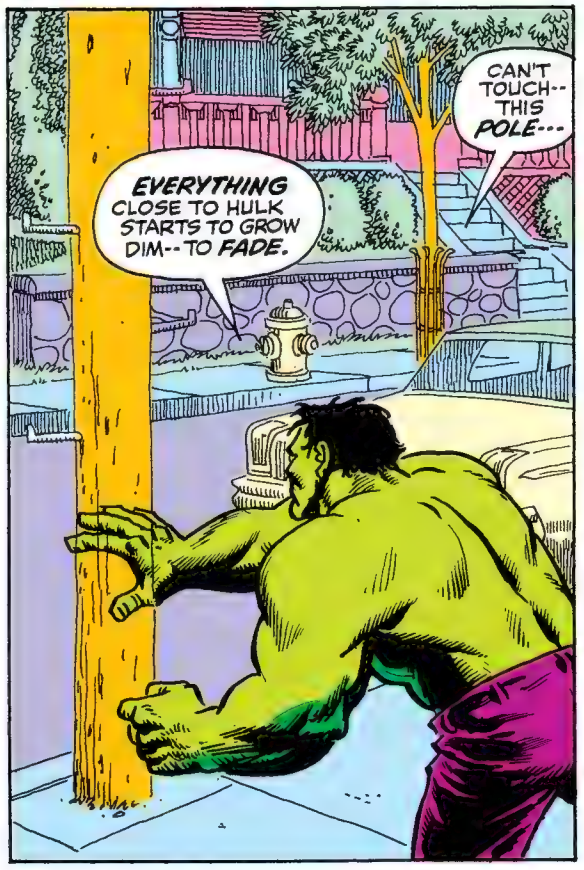
FUNNY, THOUGH. THERE'S NO SOUND --JUST LIKE HULK WAS STILL IN THE DESERT.
BUT, WHAT DOES THAT MATTER, AS LONG AS--
WHAT? SOME-THING MOVING BEHIND HULK-- COMING THIS WAY FAST--!
A GIANT MACHINE-- LIKE A TANK-- BEARING DOWN ON HULK!
SO-- NOW IT BEGINS. THIS WAS A TRAP-- JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER TIMES.
WELL, HULK WILL SHOW THEM. HULK WILL DESTROY IT, BEFORE---
NO! MACHINE -- WASN'T ATTACKING HULK AT ALL.
JUST SOME KIND OF THING THAT CLEANS STREETS-- TURNING NOW, DOWN THAT WAY.
AND, THE HUMAN DRIVING IT--IS SMILING.
WAS HE SMILING AT HULK--
--OR AT CHILDREN WHO WERE WAITING HERE TO CROSS STREET?
4

HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THIS PLACE-- BUT HE LIKES IT HERE.
ONLY THING IS-- EVERYONE KEEPS MOVING--- GOING FROM PLACE TO PLACE.
IF ONLY THERE WAS ONE WHO WOULD STAND STILL--BE HULK'S FRIEND---
AND THEN, THE GREEN BEHEMOTH TURNS--TO GAZE INTO EYES LIKE LIMPID POOLS, AMID MEADOWS OF SOFT-SPUN GOLD---
A GIRL-- JUST SITTING THERE---
LOOKING AT HULK-- SMILING AT HULK---
IF ONLY SHE WOULD SAY SOMETHING--- HULK WOULD BE HAPPY AT LAST.
SHE SMILES-- BUT SHE DOESN'T TALK.
HULK WOULD STAY HERE--- FOREVER!
AND, BECAUSE THE THOUGHT OFTTIMES IS FATHER TO THE DEED-- BECAUSE A VOICE DEEP WITHIN THE MIND MAY BE AS REAL AS ANY OTHER-- THE GIRL DOES SPEAK, IN TONES LIKE SOFTLY RINGING BELLS---
MY FRIEND--- MY DEAREST FRIEND-- I AM SO GLAD THAT YOU HAVE COME TODAY.
I HAVE BEEN SO LONELY-- BUT NO LONGER.
YOU-- CAN TALK!?
OF COURSE. AND WE SHALL TALK, AS LONG AS YOU LIKE-- TILL THE SHADE OF THIS GREAT WILLOW TURNS TO THE DUSK OF EVENING.
TALK. YES-- YES-- WE MUST TALK.
HULK, TOO, WAS LONELY--- FOR THERE WAS NO ONE TO TALK TO HIM.
EVERYONE TURNS AWAY FROM HIM---EVERYONE BUT YOU.
5

THEN, IN A FARAWAY CITY, A SOMBRE THOUGHT COMES TO REST UPON A YOUNG GIRL'S MIND--- A PASSING MEMORY OF HER AFFLICTION, PERHAPS--- NO MORE---
STILL, IT IS ENOUGH TO AVERT THE BLUE EYES--- ERASE THE BRIGHT SMILE---
WHAT-- IS WRONG, FRIEND?
DID HULK SAY SOMETHING --DO SOMETHING--?
HERE--- LET HULK TAKE YOUR HAND.
HULK WILL SHOW YOU THAT NOTHING CAN EVER PART US NOW. NOTH---
HUH?
HULK'S HAND-- PASSED THRU THE GIRL'S HAND. AND-- SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO HER---
SHE'S GETTING PALE LIKE A GHOST. STARTING TO--FADE--
SHE IS-- GONE!
6

SOME KIND OF TRICK. SOMEONE HAS TAKEN HER AWAY-- HIDDEN HER.
BUT HULK WILL FIND HER. HULK WILL---
HUH? WENT RIGHT THRU FENCE --DIDN'T SMASH IT.

AND-- THOSE PEOPLE-- THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE ONES BEFORE.
ALL RUNNING THIS WAY AND THAT WAY. NOBODY SEES HULK-- NOBODY CARES.
NOW, THEY'RE FADING --JUST LIKE THE GIRL.


CAN'T TOUCH-- THIS POLE---
EVERYTHING CLOSE TO HULK STARTS TO GROW DIM-- TO FADE.

--OR EVEN THIS CAR!
WHY? WHAT IS HAPPENING?
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HULK??

OR-- MAYBE NOTHING IS HAPPENING-- NOT TO HULK.
MAYBE IT'S THE TOWN. MAYBE SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH IT.
WELL, HULK LIKES THE TOWN-- WON'T LET ANYONE TAKE IT AWAY.
THIS IS HULK'S TOWN NOW-- AND HULK WILL STAY HERE, FOR GOOD.
HULK WILL PROTECT IT-- STAND GUARD OVER---

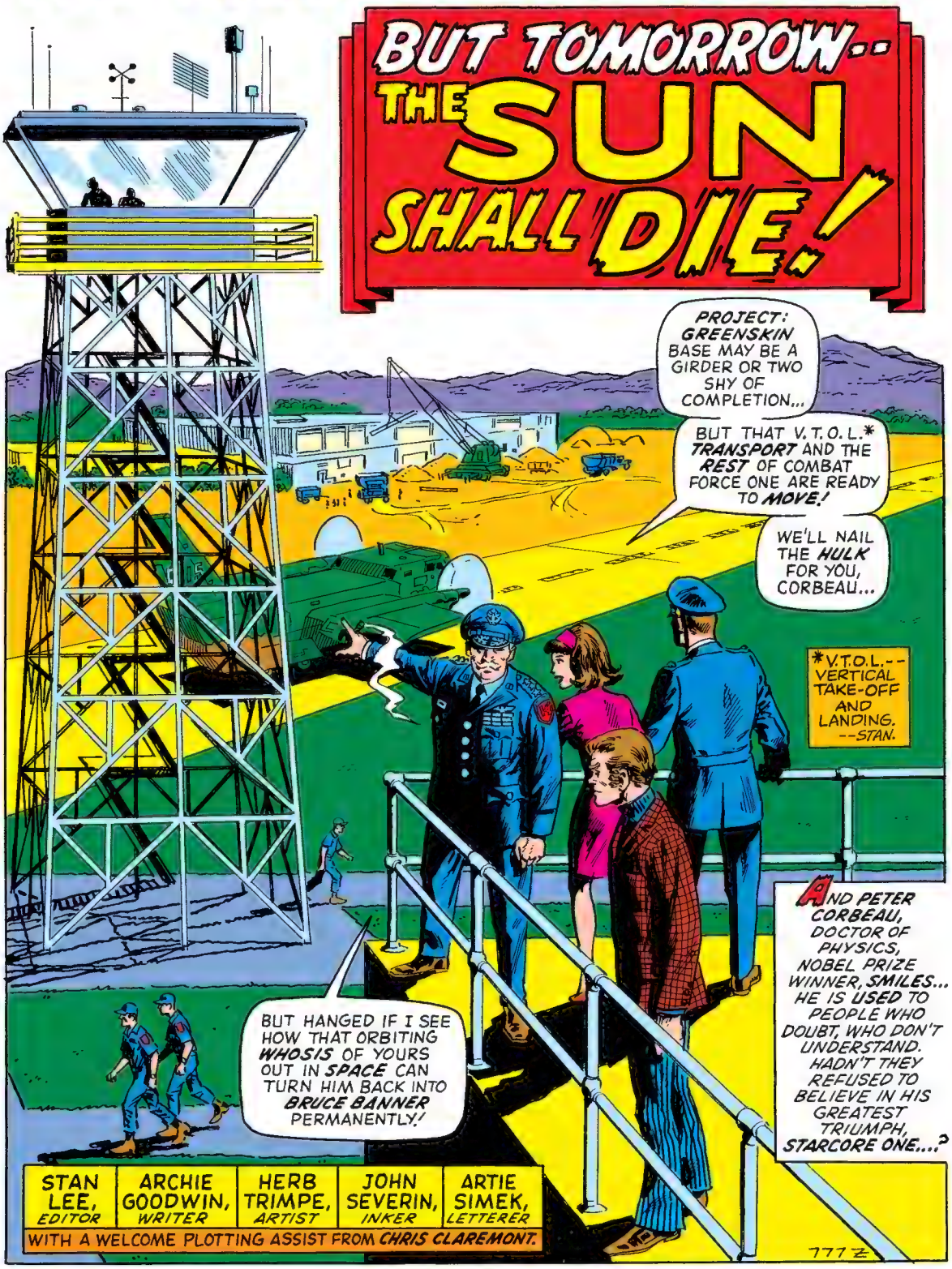
NO!
WHOLE TOWN IS DIS-APPEARING-- RIGHT IN FRONT OF HULK.
BUT-- HULK DOESN'T WANT TO BE ALONE--- NOT ANY MORE.
FIRST THE GIRL-- NOW EVERYTHING IS GOING. HULK WILL BE ALONE AGAIN!
COME BACK! COME BACK!

COME BAAACK

BUT THE BULL-ROARING CRY FADES AS SWIFTLY AS DID THE TOWN ITSELF, AND WITH NO MORE TRACE--- JUST THE MURMUR OF NIGHT-HERALDING WINDS--- THE SLITHERING OF A LIZARD OVER COOLING ROCKS---
--- SOUNDS WHICH GOAD THE GREAT-THEWED GOLIATH LIKE POISONED ARROWS, TILL HE FEELS HIMSELF DRIVEN MAD BY THEM---TILL HE RAISES BACK HIS TRIPHAMMER ARMS---
---AND LASHES OUT!
FUH-BOOOOM!
THEN, ONCE MORE THE DESERT IS SILENT BENEATH THE CLIMBING MOON, SAVE FOR BREATH OF WIND--- AND TRACK OF REPTILE.
---HOLY CROW, WILLYA LOOK AT THIS SEISMO-GRAPH, BOB? IT'S GOIN' CRAZY.
FOR ABOUT TWO SECONDS, IT REGISTERED AN EARTH-QUAKE OVER NEAR ADOBE FLAT-- THEN-- NOTHING!
HUH? YOU SURE?
COME TAKE A PEEK FOR YOUR-SELF.
SEE? STILL, I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M GETTIN' SO WORKED UP.
IT'S OVER NOW-- AND ANYWAY, IT HAPPENED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT.
THERE WAS NO-BODY AROUND TO BE HURT BY IT---
---NOBODY AT ALL.
-FINIS-
9

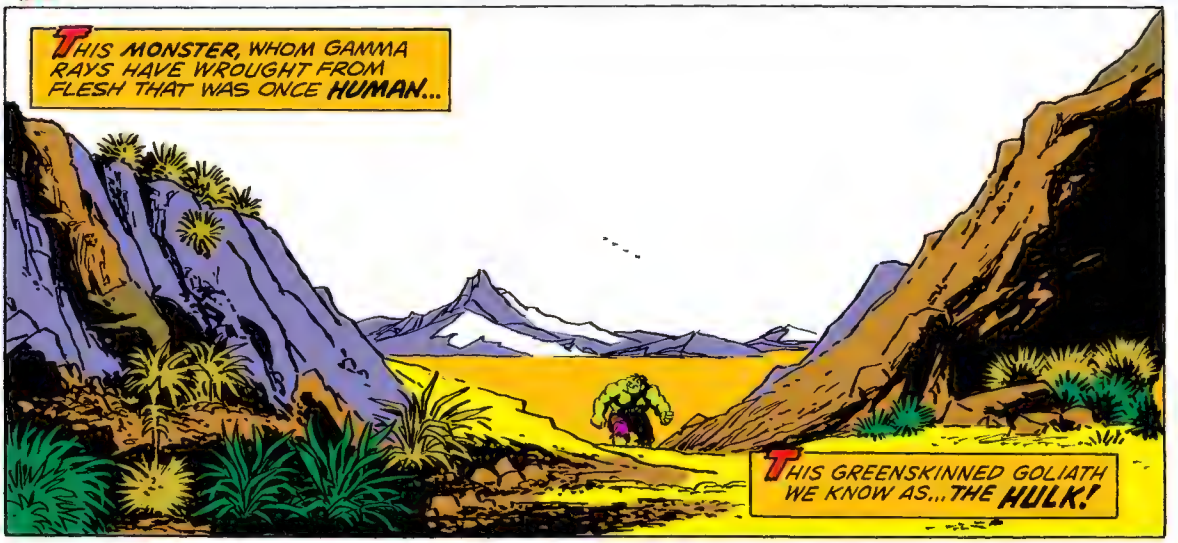
INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢ CC
148
FEB
02456
THE INCREDIBLE HULK™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YOU!! YOU KILLED JARELLA.. THE GIRL HULK LOVES!
FOR THAT... YOU DIE!!
TRIMPE & SEVERIN
THE GIRL IN THE EMERALD ATOM!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™


BUT TOMORROW.. THE SUN SHALL DIE!
PROJECT: GREENSKIN BASE MAY BE A GIRDER OR TWO SHY OF COMPLETION...
BUT THAT V.T.O.L.* TRANSPORT AND THE REST OF COMBAT FORCE ONE ARE READY TO MOVE!
WE'LL NAIL THE HULK FOR YOU, CORBEAU...
*V.T.O.L.--VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING. --STAN.
AND PETER CORBEAU, DOCTOR OF PHYSICS, NOBEL PRIZE WINNER, SMILES... HE IS USED TO PEOPLE WHO DOUBT, WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND. HADN'T THEY REFUSED TO BELIEVE IN HIS GREATEST TRIUMPH, STARCORE ONE...?
BUT HANGED IF I SEE HOW THAT ORBITING WHOSIS OF YOURS OUT IN SPACE CAN TURN HIM BACK INTO BRUCE BANNER PERMANENTLY!
STAN LEE, EDITOR
ARCHIE GOODWIN, WRITER
HERB TRIMPE, ARTIST
JOHN SEVERIN, INKER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER
WITH A WELCOME PLOTTING ASSIST FROM CHRIS CLAREMONT.
777

YET NOW IT WAS FACT--THE WORLD'S FIRST ORBITING SOLAR REACTOR! A FACT THAT MIGHT BE THE SALVATION OF A COLLEAGUE, A FRIEND...ROBERT BRUCE BANNER!
OF COURSE YOU'RE SKEPTICAL, GENERAL. YOU, YOUR DAUGHTER, AND MAJOR TALBOT HAVE HEARD MANY SUCH THEORIES...AND SEEN THEM FAIL.
BUT ONCE THIS RECEIVER UNIT IS SET UP, I THINK WE'LL SEE MINE SUCCEED...
...PROVIDED, NATURALLY, THAT YOU CAPTURE THE HULK.
EASE YOUR MIND ABOUT THAT, DOCTOR. MY "HULK-BUSTERS" CAN DELIVER!
FUNNY THING IS, IF THEY DO, AND YOUR IDEA WORKS...THIS WHOLE BASE'LL BE OBSOLETE BEFORE IT'S COMPLETED! STILL--
WHAT IS IT, AIRMAN?
THE HULK, SIR! WE'VE GOT A FIX ON 'IM!
SCANNER HAS HIM VECTORED AT COORDINATES TWO-THREE-ZERO-NINER!
GET ALPHA SECTION OF OUR SEARCH-AND-STRIKE SQUADRON ALOFT--
RIGHT NOW!
AND, IN MOMENTS, THE BRIGHT MORNING SKY ABOVE NEW MEXICO IS ALIVE WITH THE WHINE AND THUNDER OF JETS...
BUT THE SOUND MIGHT WELL BE THE BAY OF THE HOUND, THE SHRILL OF THE HORN...
HB 1
HB 2
FOR THESE ARE HUNTERS. THE HUNTERS OF GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS...
2

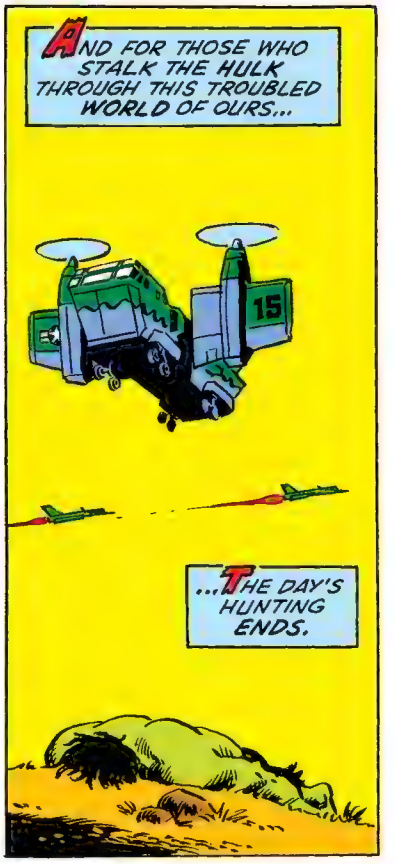
AND THIS LONE FIGURE STRIDING ACROSS THE SOUTHWESTERN WASTELANDS IS THEIR PREY...



IN YOUR MIND YOU ARE ALONE, AREN'T YOU, HULK? YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR RECENT BATTLE WITH THE LEADER AND HIS ANDROIDS.* YOU DO NOT RECALL YOUR ESCAPE. THE ONLY REALITY IS THE DESERT ABOUT YOU, THE SOIL YOU WALK UPON...
AND TWO PLANES LEAVING FORMATION BEHIND YOU AT MACH-PLUS SPEEDS GO UNNOTICED...
*BUT ANYONE WHO SAW LAST ISSUE HASN'T--STAN.

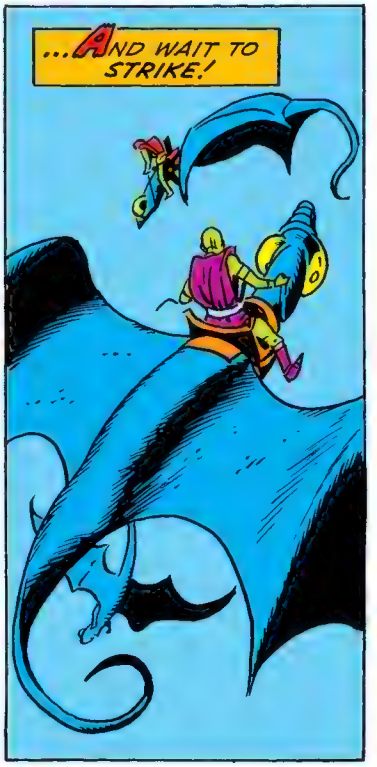
FOR, WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF SUCH THINGS...?
OF MACHINES THAT CAN OUT-DISTANCE THEIR OWN SOUND, THAT CAN ALL BUT SIT ON YOUR MASSIVE NECK BEFORE THEY'RE HEARD...?
COULD ANYONE EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU...

...MUCH LESS THE IMPACT OF THEIR SONIC BOOM?!
BRA-KOW!
PLANES! WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?!
WHAT DID THEY DO TO HULK? AND WHY?
EARS HURT... RINGING LIKE BELLS.
GOOD WORK, ALPHA ONE, ALPHA TWO...
YOU'VE LEFT HIM STUNNED, CONFUSED.
BY THE TIME THAT BRUTE CATCHES ON WE'RE COMIN' IN...
IT'S GONNA BE TOO LATE FOR ANY OF THAT HIGH-POWERED LEAPIN' HE'S FAMOUS FOR!
ROCKET DARTS ARMED...
...AND RELEASED!
CHUK! CHUK!
AND A HAILSTORM OF TINY, SEDATIVE-TIPPED MISSILES TEAR THE AIR...
CHUK!
CHUK!
TO STRIKE DEAD ON TARGET...
4



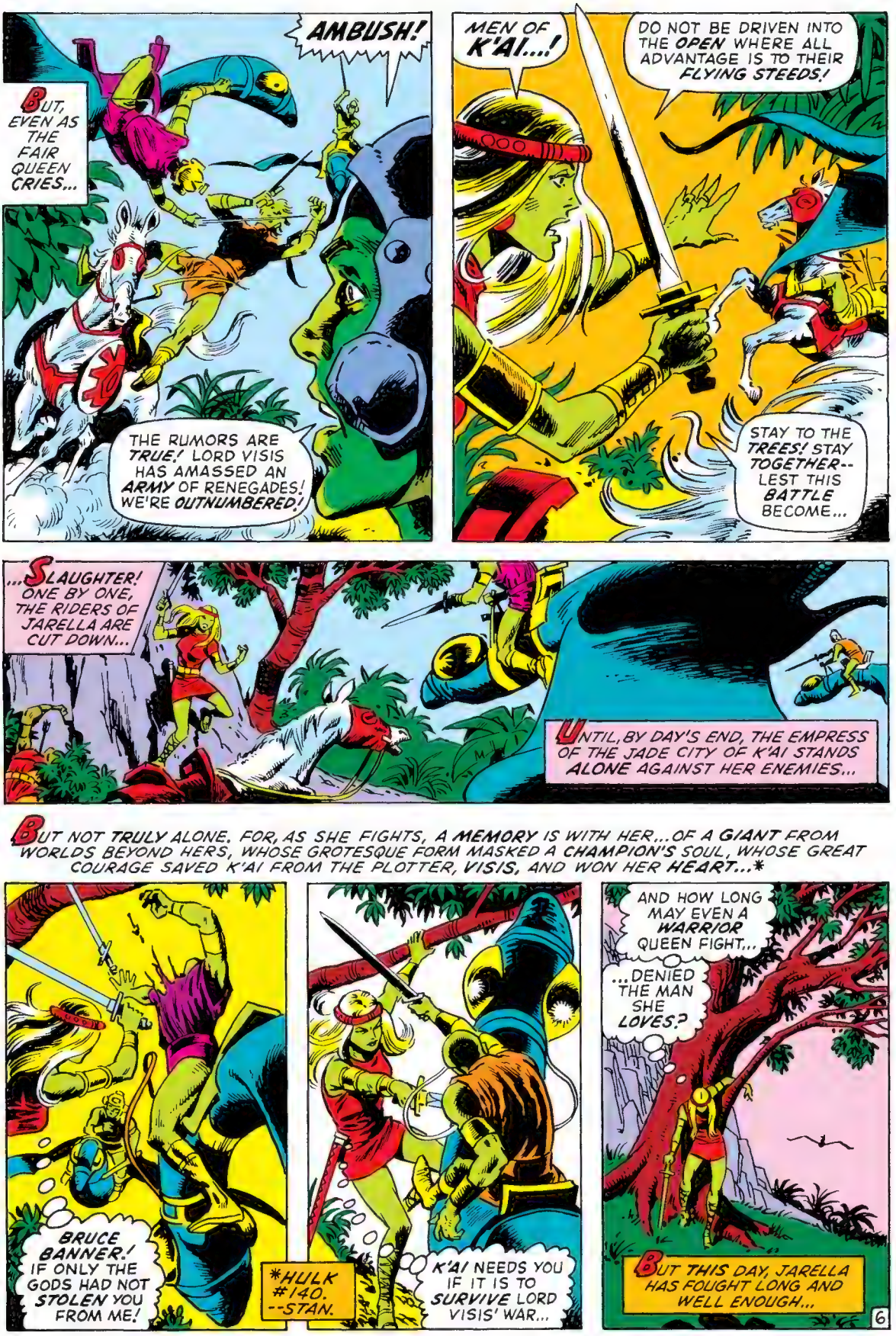
BUT THERE ARE OTHER WORLDS, OTHER EXISTENCES, OF WHICH WE NEVER DREAM...

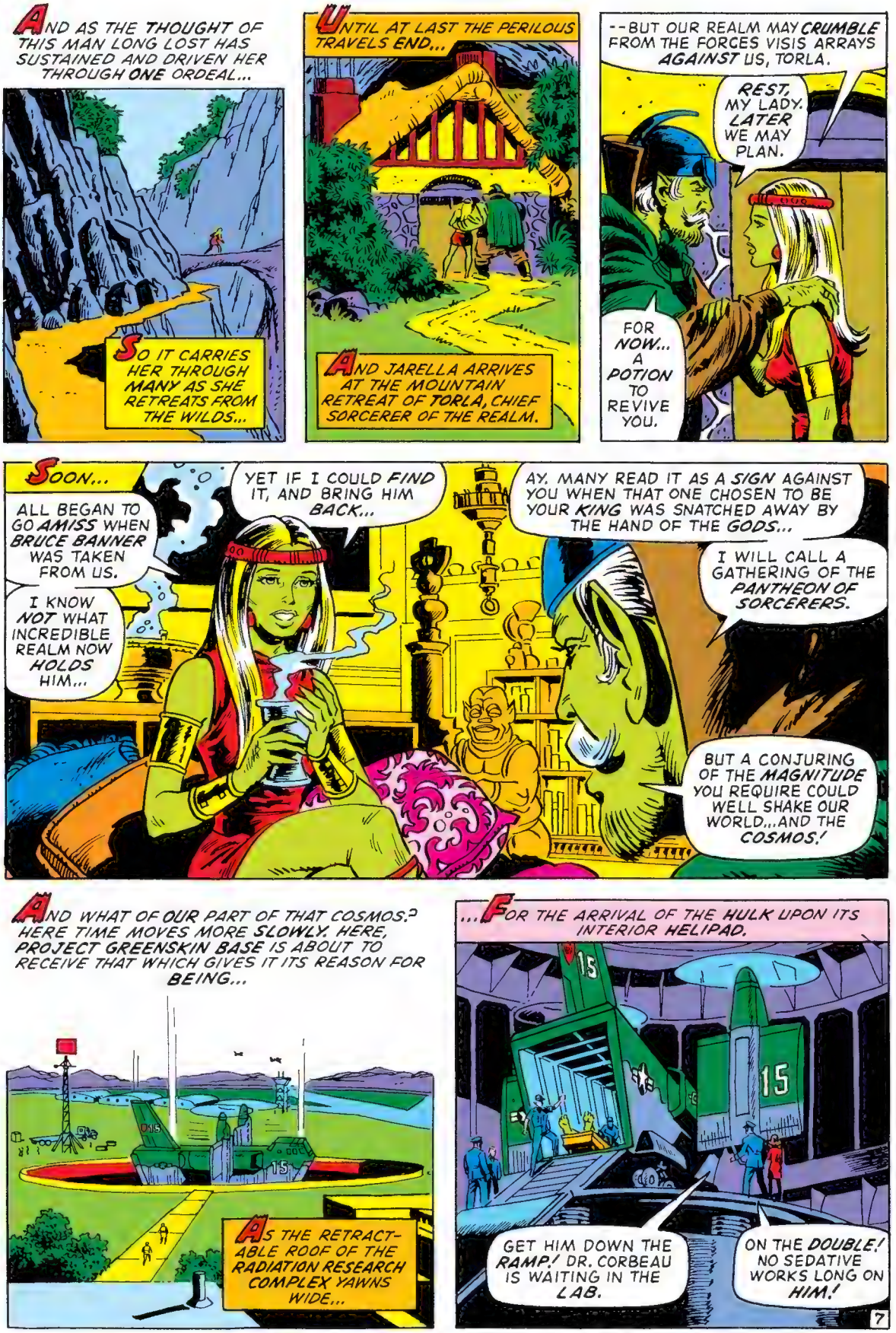
AND HERE, AS IN OUR WORLD, THERE ARE HUNTERS. HUNTERS WHO HAUNT THE SKIES...

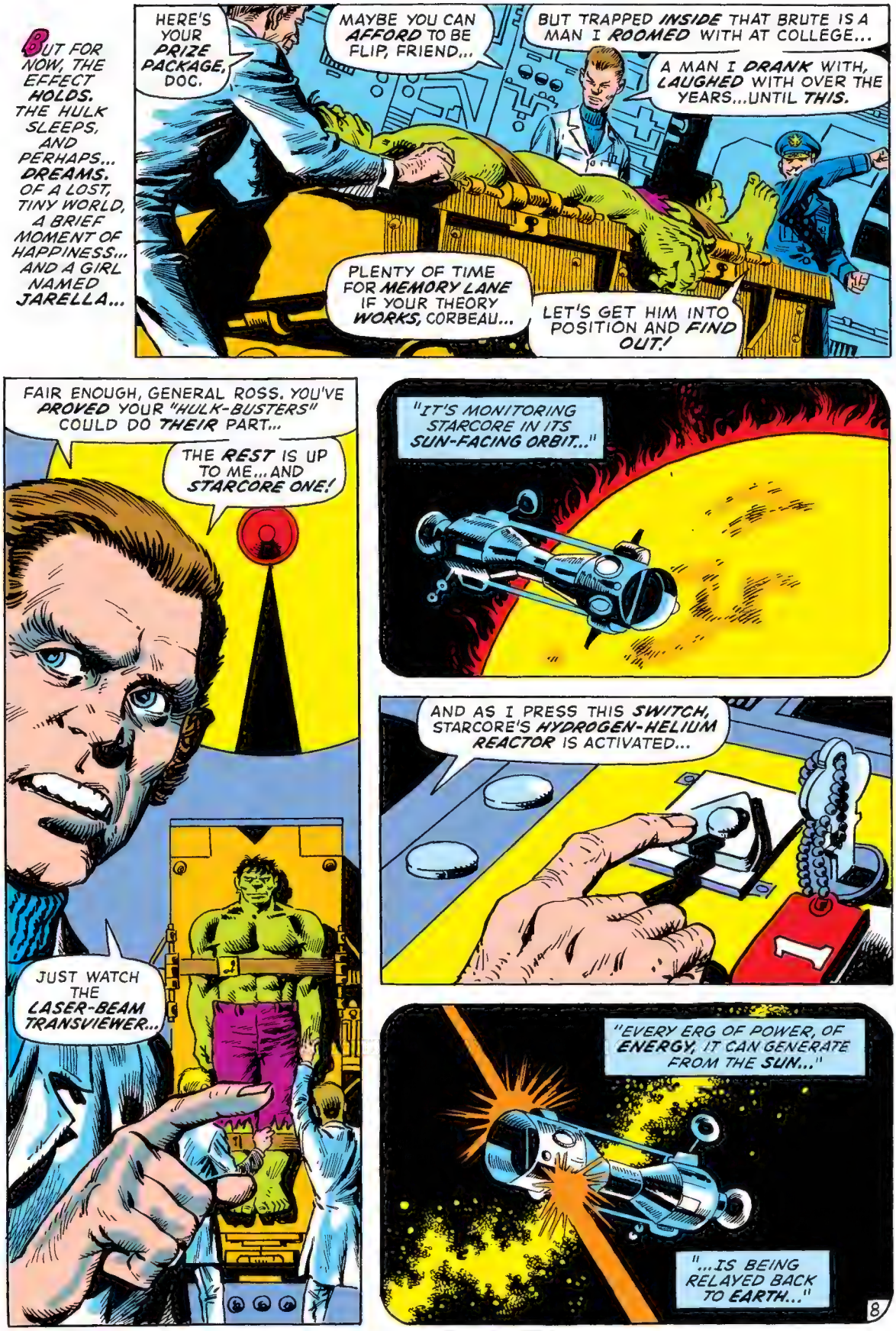


THEIR TARGET IS THE COLUMN, AND THE WARRIOR-QUEEN WHO RIDES AT ITS HEAD...

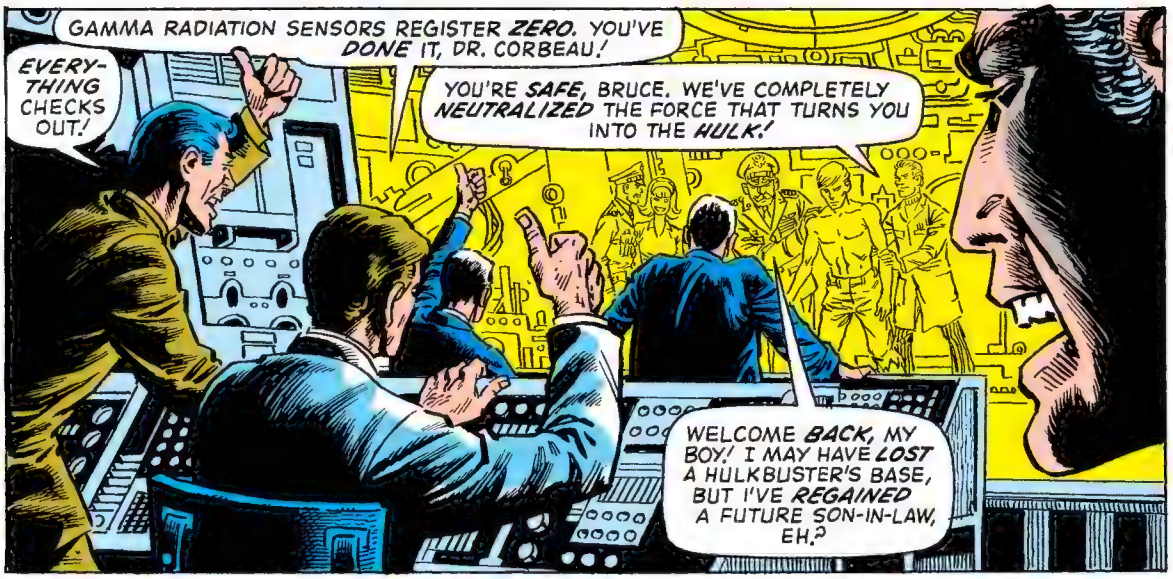
...JARELLA!
ON YOUR GUARD, MY SOLDIERS,..WE ARE DEEP WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE EXILE, VISIS.
I THOUGHT I SPIED MOVEMENT ABOVE THE TREE-TOPS AND--
5


AMBUSH!
BUT, EVEN AS THE FAIR QUEEN CRIES...
THE RUMORS ARE TRUE! LORD VISIS HAS AMASSED AN ARMY OF RENEGADES! WE'RE OUTNUMBERED!
MEN OF K'AI...!
DO NOT BE DRIVEN INTO THE OPEN WHERE ALL ADVANTAGE IS TO THEIR FLYING STEEDS!
STAY TO THE TREES! STAY TOGETHER-- LEST THIS BATTLE BECOME...
...SLAUGHTER! ONE BY ONE, THE RIDERS OF JARELLA ARE CUT DOWN...
UNTIL, BY DAY'S END, THE EMPRESS OF THE JADE CITY OF K'AI STANDS ALONE AGAINST HER ENEMIES...
BUT NOT TRULY ALONE. FOR, AS SHE FIGHTS, A MEMORY IS WITH HER...OF A GIANT FROM WORLDS BEYOND HERS, WHOSE GROTESQUE FORM MASKED A CHAMPION'S SOUL, WHOSE GREAT COURAGE SAVED K'AI FROM THE PLOTTER, VISIS, AND WON HER HEART...*
BRUCE BANNER! IF ONLY THE GODS HAD NOT STOLEN YOU FROM ME!
*HULK #140. --STAN.
K'AI NEEDS YOU IF IT IS TO SURVIVE LORD VISIS' WAR...
AND HOW LONG MAY EVEN A WARRIOR QUEEN FIGHT...
...DENIED THE MAN SHE LOVES?
BUT THIS DAY, JARELLA HAS FOUGHT LONG AND WELL ENOUGH...
6


AND AS THE THOUGHT OF THIS MAN LONG LOST HAS SUSTAINED AND DRIVEN HER THROUGH ONE ORDEAL...
SO IT CARRIES HER THROUGH MANY AS SHE RETREATS FROM THE WILDS...
UNTIL AT LAST THE PERILOUS TRAVELS END...
AND JARELLA ARRIVES AT THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT OF TORLA, CHIEF SORCERER OF THE REALM.
--BUT OUR REALM MAY CRUMBLE FROM THE FORCES VISIS ARRAYS AGAINST US, TORLA.
REST, MY LADY. LATER WE MAY PLAN.
FOR NOW... A POTION TO REVIVE YOU.
SOON...
ALL BEGAN TO GO AMISS WHEN BRUCE BANNER WAS TAKEN FROM US.
I KNOW NOT WHAT INCREDIBLE REALM NOW HOLDS HIM...
YET IF I COULD FIND IT, AND BRING HIM BACK...
AY. MANY READ IT AS A SIGN AGAINST YOU WHEN THAT ONE CHOSEN TO BE YOUR KING WAS SNATCHED AWAY BY THE HAND OF THE GODS...
I WILL CALL A GATHERING OF THE PANTHEON OF SORCERERS.
BUT A CONJURING OF THE MAGNITUDE YOU REQUIRE COULD WELL SHAKE OUR WORLD...AND THE COSMOS!
AND WHAT OF OUR PART OF THAT COSMOS? HERE TIME MOVES MORE SLOWLY. HERE, PROJECT GREENSKIN BASE IS ABOUT TO RECEIVE THAT WHICH GIVES IT ITS REASON FOR BEING...
AS THE RETRACTABLE ROOF OF THE RADIATION RESEARCH COMPLEX YAWNS WIDE...
...FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE HULK UPON ITS INTERIOR HELIPAD.
GET HIM DOWN THE RAMP! DR. CORBEAU IS WAITING IN THE LAB.
ON THE DOUBLE! NO SEDATIVE WORKS LONG ON HIM!
7

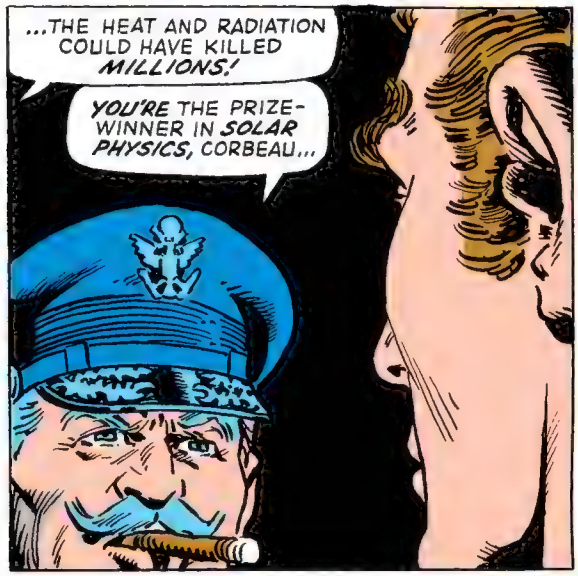

BUT FOR NOW, THE EFFECT HOLDS. THE HULK SLEEPS, AND PERHAPS... DREAMS. OF A LOST, TINY WORLD, A BRIEF MOMENT OF HAPPINESS... AND A GIRL NAMED JARELLA...
HERE'S YOUR PRIZE PACKAGE, DOC.
MAYBE YOU CAN AFFORD TO BE FLIP, FRIEND...
BUT TRAPPED INSIDE THAT BRUTE IS A MAN I ROOMED WITH AT COLLEGE...
A MAN I DRANK WITH, LAUGHED WITH OVER THE YEARS...UNTIL THIS.
PLENTY OF TIME FOR MEMORY LANE IF YOUR THEORY WORKS, CORBEAU...
LET'S GET HIM INTO POSITION AND FIND OUT!
FAIR ENOUGH, GENERAL ROSS. YOU'VE PROVED YOUR "HULK-BUSTERS" COULD DO THEIR PART...
THE REST IS UP TO ME... AND STARCORE ONE!
JUST WATCH THE LASER-BEAM TRANSVIEWER...
"IT'S MONITORING STARCORE IN ITS SUN-FACING ORBIT..."
AND AS I PRESS THIS SWITCH, STARCORE'S HYDROGEN-HELIUM REACTOR IS ACTIVATED...
"EVERY ERG OF POWER, OF ENERGY, IT CAN GENERATE FROM THE SUN..."
"...IS BEING RELAYED BACK TO EARTH..."
8

"...IN ONE FANTASTICALLY CONCENTRATED BEAM THAT NOW STRIKES OUR SOLAR-WAVE RECEIVER..."
WHICH FILTERS IT DOWN HERE... TO PLAY OVER THE HULK!
SHEER SOLAR ENERGY PENETRATING EVERY ATOM OF HIS BODY...
ATTACKING AND NEUTRALIZING THE GAMMA RADIATION THAT MADE HIM WHAT HE IS!
WHAT HAPPENS?! SOMETHING HITS HULK...LIKE SHOWER OF FIRE!
IT IS HURTING HULK...CHANGING HULK!
NO! DON'T WANT TO CHANGE...!
DON'T WANT...
CHANGE...
I'M...
I'VE...
C-CHANGED...!
I-IT'S DONE...!
AND HE'S BRUCE AGAIN...MY DARLING, BRUCE!
BUT, CORBEAU...CAN YOU BE CERTAIN IT'S PERMANENT?

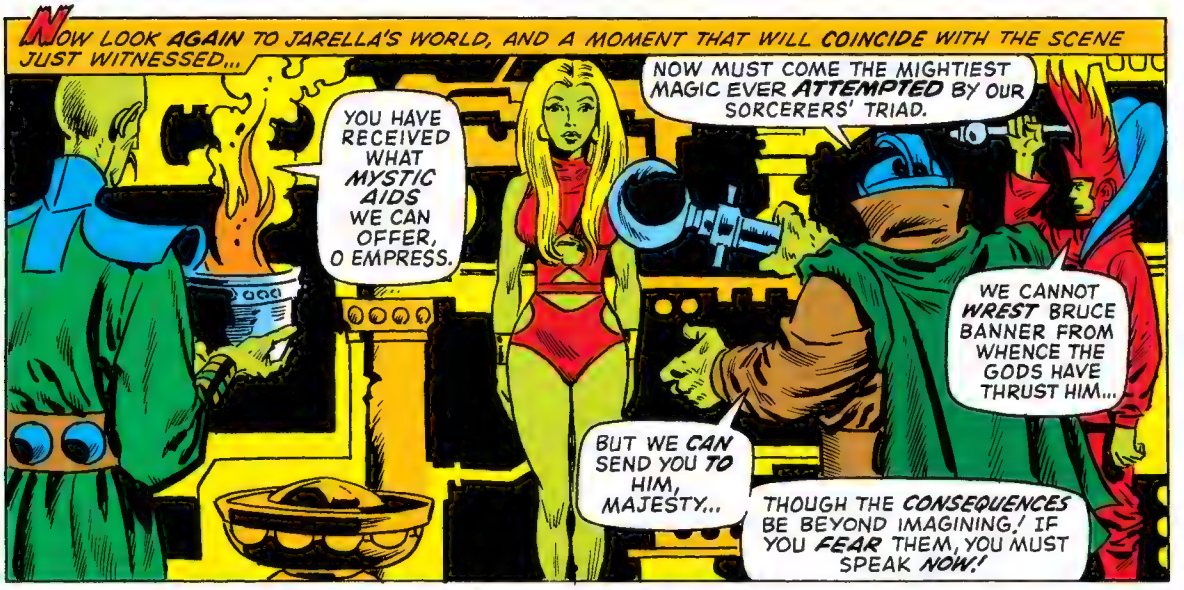

GAMMA RADIATION SENSORS REGISTER ZERO. YOU'VE DONE IT, DR. CORBEAU!
EVERY-THING CHECKS OUT!
YOU'RE SAFE, BRUCE. WE'VE COMPLETELY NEUTRALIZED THE FORCE THAT TURNS YOU INTO THE HULK!
WELCOME BACK, MY BOY! I MAY HAVE LOST A HULKBUSTER'S BASE, BUT I'VE REGAINED A FUTURE SON-IN-LAW, EH?

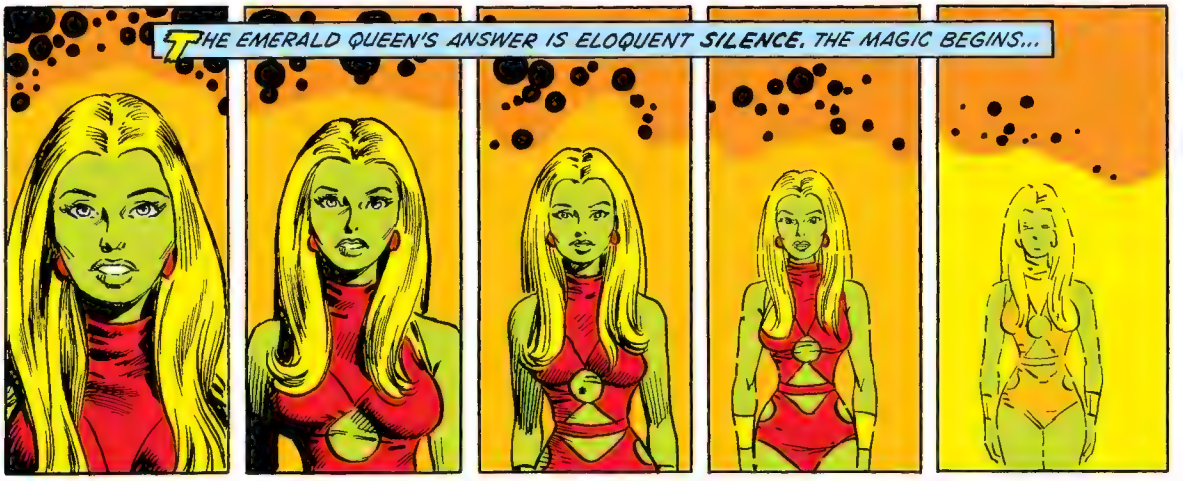
GENERAL ROSS! STARCORE ONE IS SIGNALLING SOME KIND OF... SOLAR DISTURBANCE!
CAN YOU GET ANYTHING ON THE LASER-BEAM TRANSVIEWER?

GOOD LORD! A FLARE! LOOK AT IT SHOOTING UP OFF THE SUN'S SURFACE!
IT'S GIGANTIC!
NO ORDINARY SOLAR STORM EVER BEHAVED LIKE THAT! WHY, IF EARTH HAD BEEN IN LINE WITH IT...

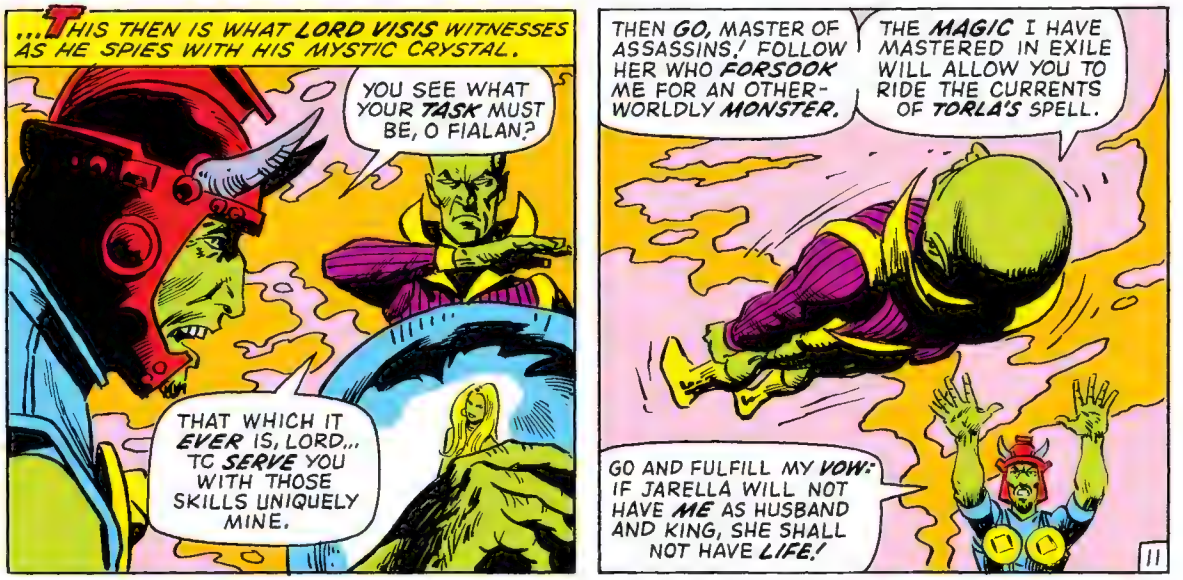

...THE HEAT AND RADIATION COULD HAVE KILLED MILLIONS!
YOU'RE THE PRIZE-WINNER IN SOLAR PHYSICS, CORBEAU...

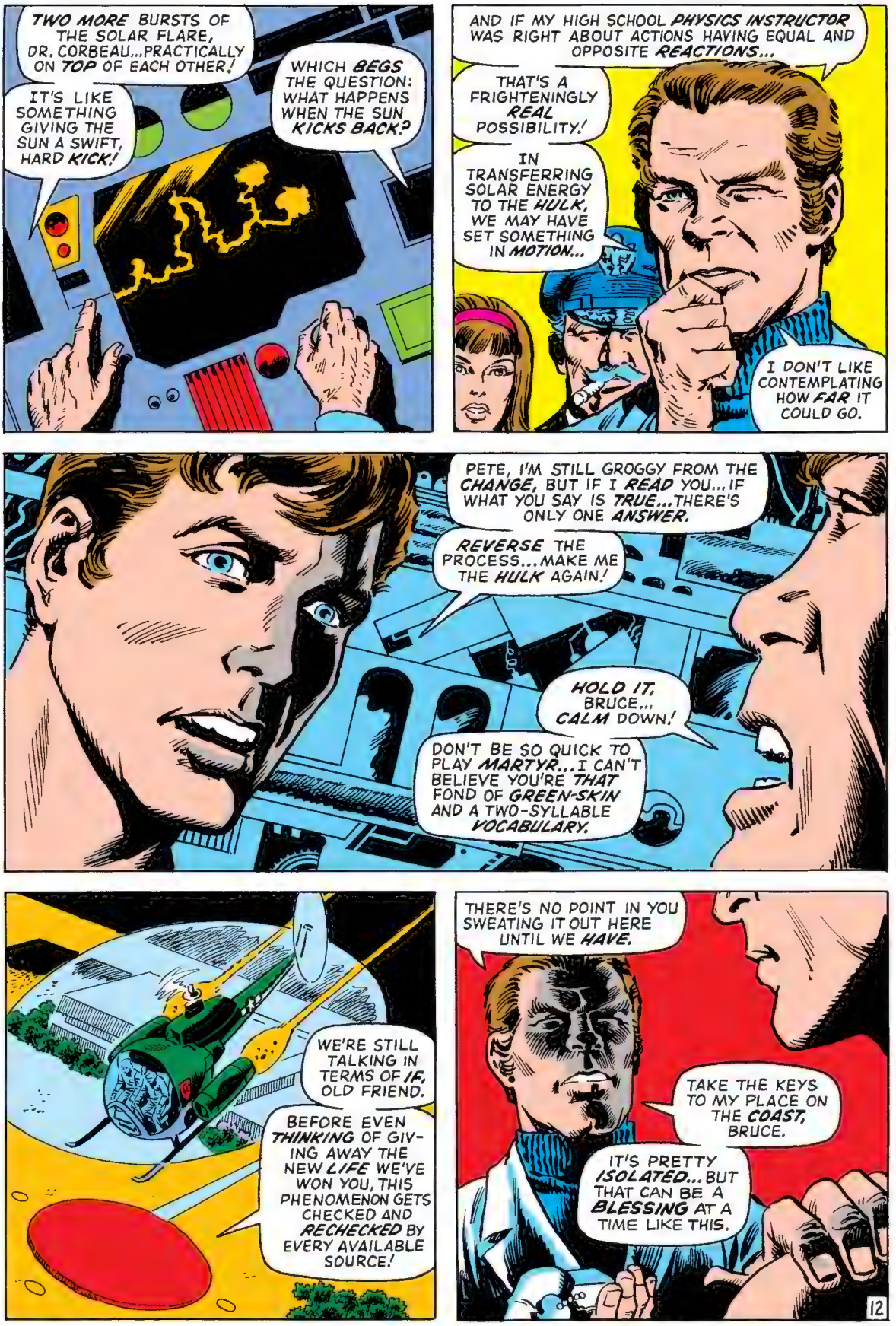
ANY QUICK, INCISIVE THOUGHTS?
ONLY THE MOST OBVIOUS, GENERAL.
SOMEWHAT, SOMEHOW...
IT'S CONNECTED WITH OUR CHANGING BRUCE BANNER FROM BEING THE HULK!

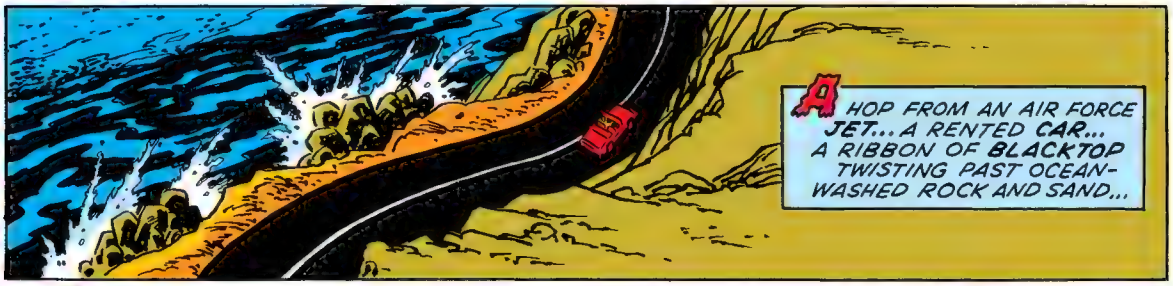

NOW LOOK AGAIN TO JARELLA'S WORLD, AND A MOMENT THAT WILL COINCIDE WITH THE SCENE JUST WITNESSED...
YOU HAVE RECEIVED WHAT MYSTIC AIDS WE CAN OFFER, O EMPRESS.
NOW MUST COME THE MIGHTIEST MAGIC EVER ATTEMPTED BY OUR SORCERERS' TRIAD.
WE CANNOT WREST BRUCE BANNER FROM WHENCE THE GODS HAVE THRUST HIM...
BUT WE CAN SEND YOU TO HIM, MAJESTY...
THOUGH THE CONSEQUENCES BE BEYOND IMAGINING! IF YOU FEAR THEM, YOU MUST SPEAK NOW!



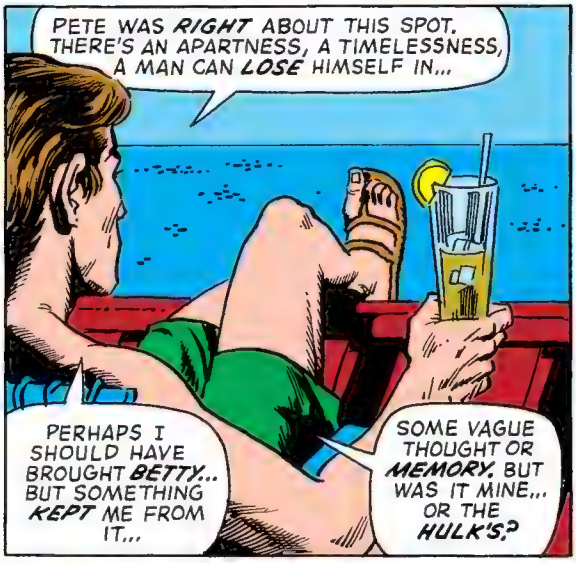
AND GREAT MAGIC IT IS. FOR THE DESTINATION OF JARELLA IS INCREDIBLY DISTANT. FOR, HER WORLD IS LOST WITHIN OURS, ONE PARTICLE OF A UNIVERSE LOCKED INSIDE AN ATOM OF OUR OWN! THIS THEN IS THE BARRIER THROUGH WHICH THE SORCERY NOW MOVES JARELLA...

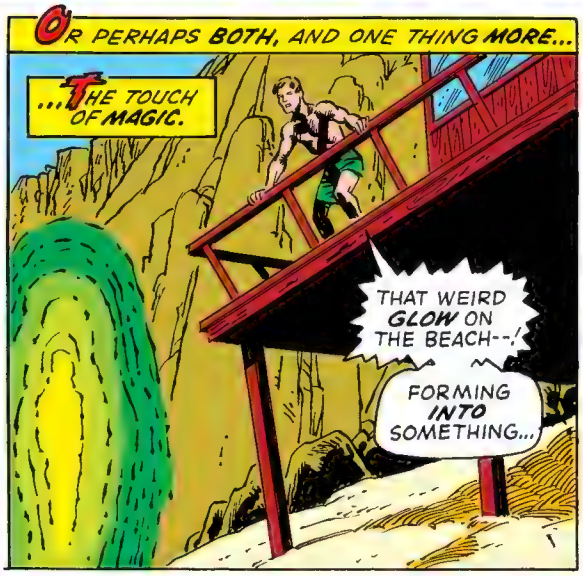

...THIS THEN IS WHAT LORD VISIS WITNESSES AS HE SPIES WITH HIS MYSTIC CRYSTAL.
YOU SEE WHAT YOUR TASK MUST BE, O FIALAN?
THAT WHICH IT EVER IS, LORD... TO SERVE YOU WITH THOSE SKILLS UNIQUELY MINE.
THEN GO, MASTER OF ASSASSINS! FOLLOW HER WHO FORSOOK ME FOR AN OTHER-WORLDLY MONSTER.
THE MAGIC I HAVE MASTERED IN EXILE WILL ALLOW YOU TO RIDE THE CURRENTS OF TORLA'S SPELL.
GO AND FULFILL MY VOW: IF JARELLA WILL NOT HAVE ME AS HUSBAND AND KING, SHE SHALL NOT HAVE LIFE!


TWO MORE BURSTS OF THE SOLAR FLARE, DR. CORBEAU...PRACTICALLY ON TOP OF EACH OTHER!
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING GIVING THE SUN A SWIFT, HARD KICK!
WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SUN KICKS BACK?
AND IF MY HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS INSTRUCTOR WAS RIGHT ABOUT ACTIONS HAVING EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REACTIONS...
THAT'S A FRIGHTENINGLY REAL POSSIBILITY!
IN TRANSFERRING SOLAR ENERGY TO THE HULK, WE MAY HAVE SET SOMETHING IN MOTION...
I DON'T LIKE CONTEMPLATING HOW FAR IT COULD GO.
PETE, I'M STILL GROGGY FROM THE CHANGE, BUT IF I READ YOU...IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE...THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER.
REVERSE THE PROCESS...MAKE ME THE HULK AGAIN!
HOLD IT, BRUCE... CALM DOWN!
DON'T BE SO QUICK TO PLAY MARTYR...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THAT FOND OF GREEN-SKIN AND A TWO-SYLLABLE VOCABULARY.
WE'RE STILL TALKING IN TERMS OF IF, OLD FRIEND.
BEFORE EVEN THINKING OF GIVING AWAY THE NEW LIFE WE'VE WON YOU, THIS PHENOMENON GETS CHECKED AND RECHECKED BY EVERY AVAILABLE SOURCE!
THERE'S NO POINT IN YOU SWEATING IT OUT HERE UNTIL WE HAVE.
TAKE THE KEYS TO MY PLACE ON THE COAST, BRUCE.
IT'S PRETTY ISOLATED...BUT THAT CAN BE A BLESSING AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
12

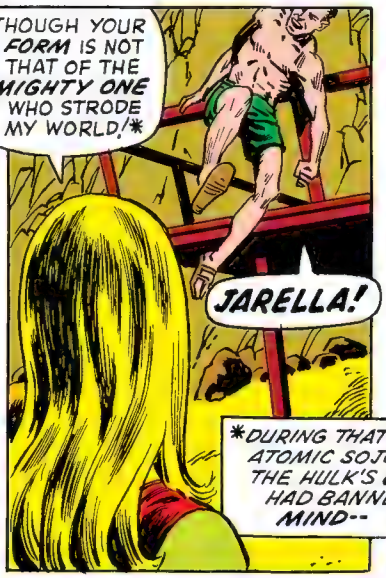

A HOP FROM AN AIR FORCE JET... A RENTED CAR... A RIBBON OF BLACKTOP TWISTING PAST OCEAN-WASHED ROCK AND SAND...

AND BRUCE BANNER IS BROUGHT TO A PLACE LONELY AND REMOVED. A PLACE OF SILENCE, SAVE FOR THE ROLLING WAVES, THE CRYING GULLS... AND, CURIOUSLY FOR ONE WHOSE LIFE, WHOSE SANITY, MAY BE IN THE BALANCE...
...A PLACE OF PEACE.

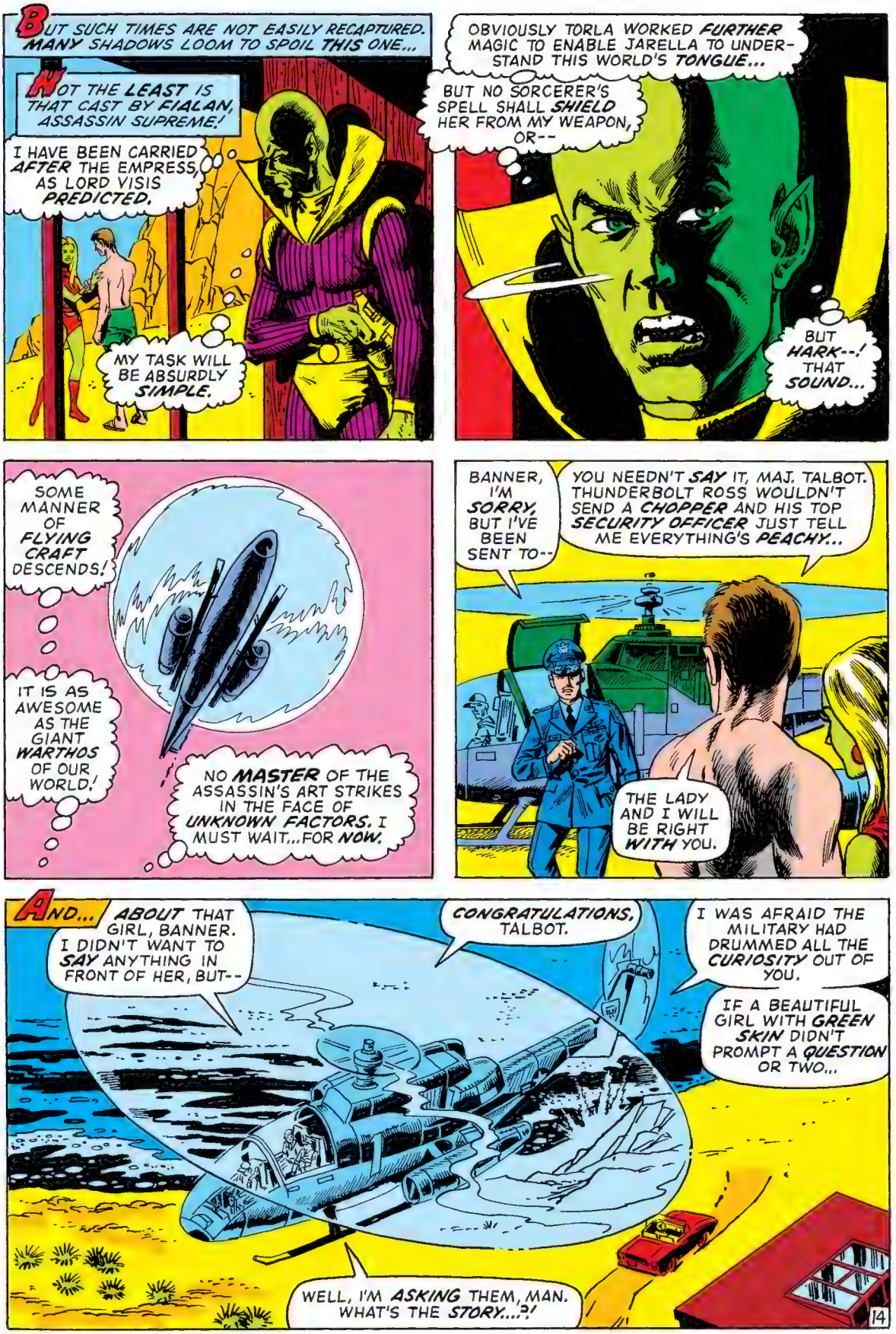

PETE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THIS SPOT. THERE'S AN APARTNESS, A TIMELESSNESS, A MAN CAN LOSE HIMSELF IN...
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT BETTY... BUT SOMETHING KEPT ME FROM IT...
SOME VAGUE THOUGHT OR MEMORY, BUT WAS IT MINE... OR THE HULK'S?


OR PERHAPS BOTH, AND ONE THING MORE...
...THE TOUCH OF MAGIC.
THAT WEIRD GLOW ON THE BEACH--!
FORMING INTO SOMETHING...

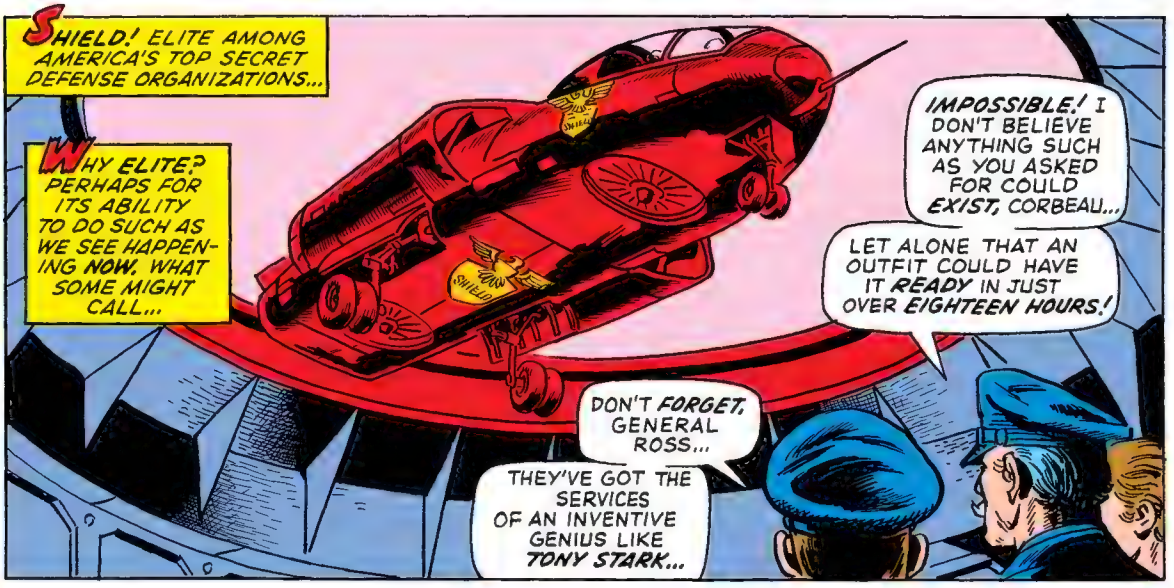
A GIRL! NO,...NOT JUST A GIRL, BUT--
MY LAST FEAR PASSES...YOU REMEMBER ME, BRUCE BANNER!
EVEN AS I RECOGNIZE YOU...

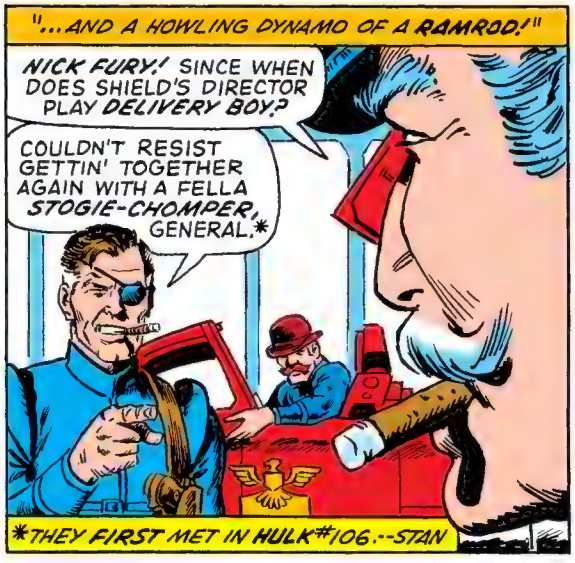

THOUGH YOUR FORM IS NOT THAT OF THE MIGHTY ONE WHO STRODE MY WORLD!*
JARELLA!
*DURING THAT SUB-ATOMIC SOJOURN, THE HULK'S BODY HAD BANNER'S MIND-- STAN.

THE MEMORY WAS HIDDEN, JARELLA, BUT I COULDN'T TRULY FORGET OUR BRIEF TIME TOGETHER...
THE ONLY TIME THE HULK AND I--
--EXISTED HAPPILY AS ONE!


BUT SUCH TIMES ARE NOT EASILY RECAPTURED. MANY SHADOWS LOOM TO SPOIL THIS ONE...
NOT THE LEAST IS THAT CAST BY FIALAN, ASSASSIN SUPREME!
I HAVE BEEN CARRIED AFTER THE EMPRESS, AS LORD VISIS PREDICTED.
MY TASK WILL BE ABSURDLY SIMPLE.
OBVIOUSLY TORLA WORKED FURTHER MAGIC TO ENABLE JARELLA TO UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD'S TONGUE...
BUT NO SORCERER'S SPELL SHALL SHIELD HER FROM MY WEAPON, OR--
BUT HARK--! THAT SOUND...
SOME MANNER OF FLYING CRAFT DESCENDS!
IT IS AS AWESOME AS THE GIANT WARTHOS OF OUR WORLD!
NO MASTER OF THE ASSASSIN'S ART STRIKES IN THE FACE OF UNKNOWN FACTORS. I MUST WAIT...FOR NOW.
BANNER, I'M SORRY, BUT I'VE BEEN SENT TO--
YOU NEEDN'T SAY IT, MAJ. TALBOT. THUNDERBOLT ROSS WOULDN'T SEND A CHOPPER AND HIS TOP SECURITY OFFICER JUST TELL ME EVERYTHING'S PEACHY...
THE LADY AND I WILL BE RIGHT WITH YOU.
AND... ABOUT THAT GIRL, BANNER. I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING IN FRONT OF HER, BUT--
CONGRATULATIONS, TALBOT.
I WAS AFRAID THE MILITARY HAD DRUMMED ALL THE CURIOSITY OUT OF YOU.
IF A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WITH GREEN SKIN DIDN'T PROMPT A QUESTION OR TWO...
WELL, I'M ASKING THEM, MAN. WHAT'S THE STORY...?!

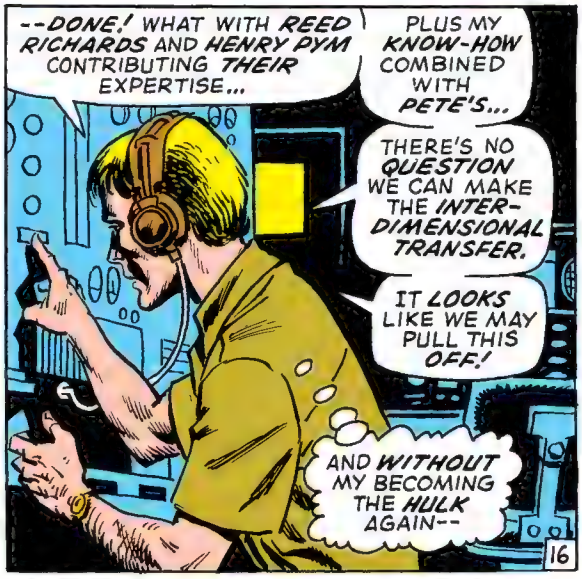
AND THAT STORY OF THE HULK IN A MICRO-UNIVERSE IS TOLD SEVERAL TIMES...
INCREDIBLE! I CAN'T BLAME YOU, BANNER...BUT WHAT ABOUT BETTY? HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HER FEELINGS IF SHE LEARNS OF THIS JARELLA?
I'VE SCARCELY HAD TIME TO EXAMINE MY OWN, GENERAL.
RIGHT NOW, I GATHER DR. CORBEAU HAS A PROBLEM THAT MAKES ANY OF OUR INDIVIDUAL ONES PRETTY PETTY!
AND, IN A WORD, THAT PROBLEM IS...
--NOVA, PETE? AS A REACTION AGAINST THOSE SOLAR FLARINGS, OUR SUN'S GOING NOVA?!
STUDY THESE INFERA-DIAGRAMS STARCORE ONE'S BEEN SENDING...
OL' SOL HAS FOUND A WAY OF KICKING BACK ALL RIGHT... BY BLOWING ITSELF UP!
BUT IT'S NOT SOLELY BECAUSE WE TRANSFERRED ENERGY TO CURE YOU. ALL TESTS VERIFY THAT THAT ALONE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE DONE IT EVENTUALLY--
--BUT THE ENTIRE PROCESS HAS BEEN GREATLY SPEEDED UP BY SOMETHING ELSE OCCURRING AT THE SAME TIME.
SOME OBJECT, OR OBJECTS, RIPPED THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR TIME AND SPACE... BROKE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION...
...INTO OUR OWN! THE SUN'S REACTION IS THE RESULT.
PETE!
B-BUT... THAT SOUNDS MUCH LIKE THE JOURNEY TORLA'S SPELL--
YES. I'M SORRY...
HAVING HEARD THE STORY OF YOUR COMING, JARELLA, I CAN'T BELIEVE ANYTHING ELSE. BUT THE SUN IS A DAY FROM CRITICAL POINT...
IF A RETURN IS AFFECTED BEFORE THEN... THE BALANCE MIGHT BE RESTORED, THE TIME-SPACE FISSURE HEALED!
PETE, THERE'S A MADMAN AND HIS ARMY WAITING IN THAT WORLD TO DESTROY JARELLA!
I KNOW, BRUCE, AND I'M WORKING ON SOMETHING...
BUT IF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM BURNS TO A CRISP...HER SUB-ATOMIC COSMOS GOES WITH IT AS WELL!
BASE COMMUNICATIONS? I WANT A PRIORITY LINE TO NICK FURY OF SHIELD!
15

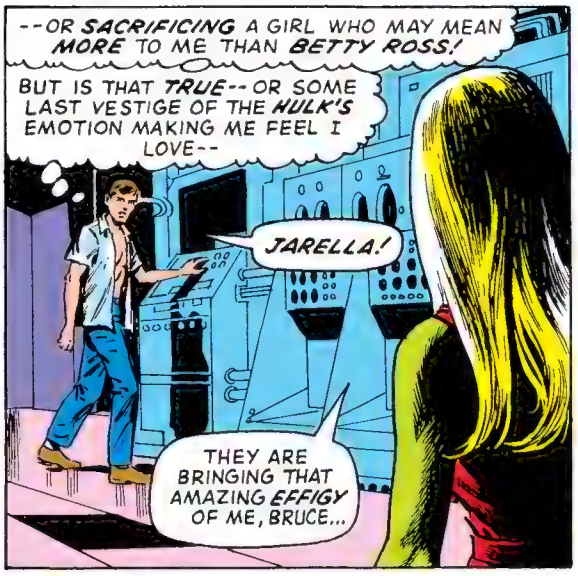

SHIELD! ELITE AMONG AMERICA'S TOP SECRET DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS...
WHY ELITE? PERHAPS FOR ITS ABILITY TO DO SUCH AS WE SEE HAPPENING NOW. WHAT SOME MIGHT CALL...
IMPOSSIBLE! I DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING SUCH AS YOU ASKED FOR COULD EXIST, CORBEAU...
LET ALONE THAT AN OUTFIT COULD HAVE IT READY IN JUST OVER EIGHTEEN HOURS!
DON'T FORGET, GENERAL ROSS...
THEY'VE GOT THE SERVICES OF AN INVENTIVE GENIUS LIKE TONY STARK...


"...AND A HOWLING DYNAMO OF A RAMROD!"
NICK FURY! SINCE WHEN DOES SHIELD'S DIRECTOR PLAY DELIVERY BOY?
COULDN'T RESIST GETTIN' TOGETHER AGAIN WITH A FELLA STOGIE-CHOMPER, GENERAL.*
*THEY FIRST MET IN HULK #106.--STAN

AND I WANTED TA PERSONALLY MAKE SURE THIS LIFE MODEL DECOY DOC CORBEAU WANTED MADE IT.
WITH THE WHOLE BLASTED SUN AT STAKE, WHO TAKES CHANCES?
T-THIS IS SORCERY AS GREAT AS TORLA'S...!

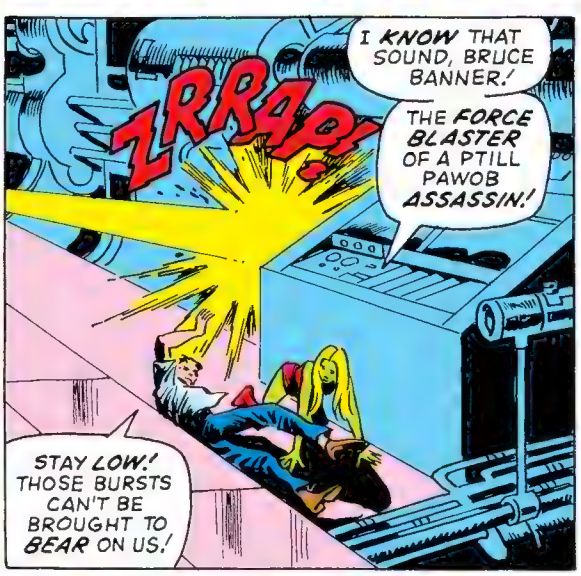
ONLY HERE WE CALL IT SCIENCE, JARELLA. TO REPAIR THE SPACE-TIME RIFT, WE HAVE TO RESTORE EXACTLY WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM YOUR WORLD.
BUT SINCE THIS LMD DUPLICATES YOU PERFECTLY, WE CAN RETURN IT IN YOUR PLACE!
TIME'S GETTING SHORT, CORBEAU. HOW'S BANNER COMING WITH THOSE LAB EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS?


--DONE! WHAT WITH REED RICHARDS AND HENRY PYM CONTRIBUTING THEIR EXPERTISE...
PLUS MY KNOW-HOW COMBINED WITH PETE'S...
THERE'S NO QUESTION WE CAN MAKE THE INTER-DIMENSIONAL TRANSFER.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY PULL THIS OFF!
AND WITHOUT MY BECOMING THE HULK AGAIN--

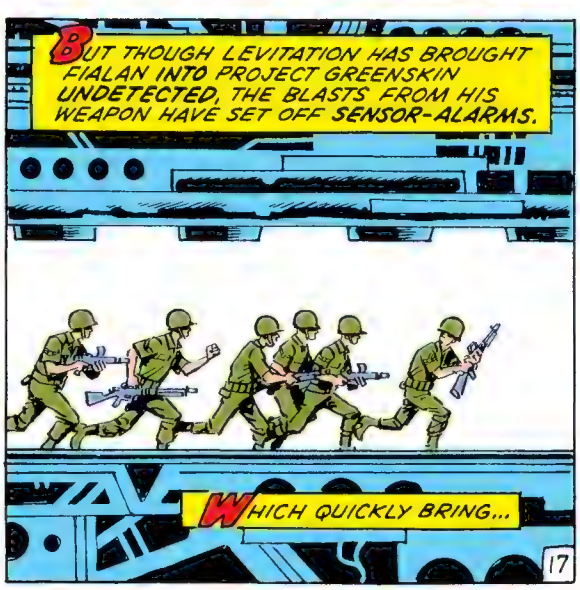

--OR SACRIFICING A GIRL WHO MAY MEAN MORE TO ME THAN BETTY ROSS!
BUT IS THAT TRUE-- OR SOME LAST VESTIGE OF THE HULK'S EMOTION MAKING ME FEEL I LOVE--
JARELLA!
THEY ARE BRINGING THAT AMAZING EFFIGY OF ME, BRUCE...

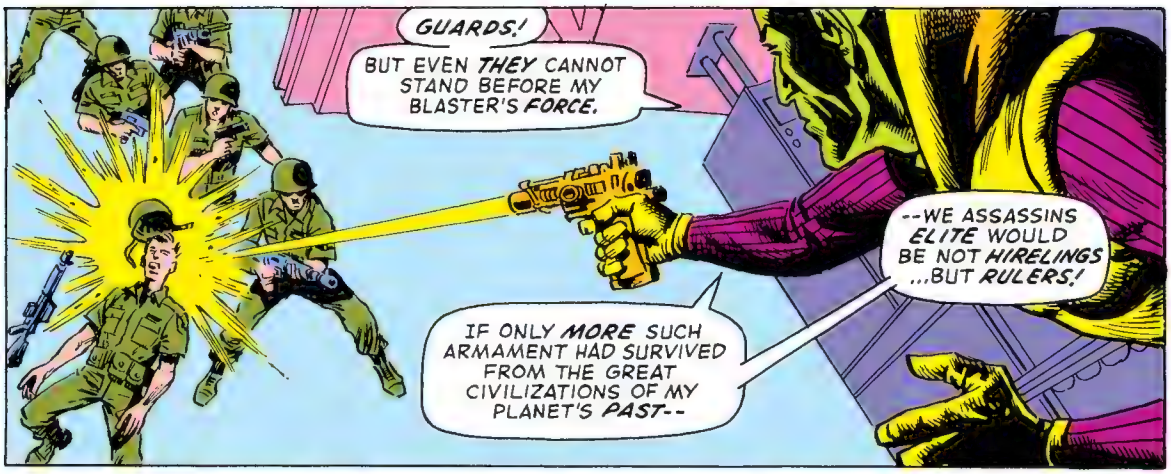
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO SPEAK ALONE TO THIS MAN, O QUEEN OF K'AI.
YOU RUSHED AHEAD OF THOSE OTHERS WHOSE PRESENCE STAYED MY HAND.
BUT NOTHING DELAYS ME NOW! I NEED BUT RELEASE MY WEAPON'S SAFETY DEVICE AND--

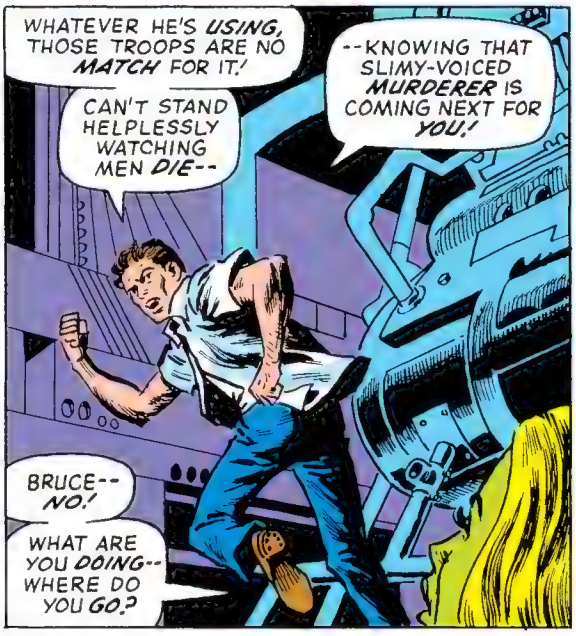
AND THE SENSES OF A MAN WHO HAS BEEN HOUNDED AND HUNTED FOR YEARS ARE SUDDENLY STIRRED BY THAT SLIGHTEST OF NOISES!
ZTAK!
DOWN, JARELLA!


I KNOW THAT SOUND, BRUCE BANNER!
ZRRAP!
THE FORCE BLASTER OF A PTILL PAWOB ASSASSIN!
STAY LOW! THOSE BURSTS CAN'T BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON US!

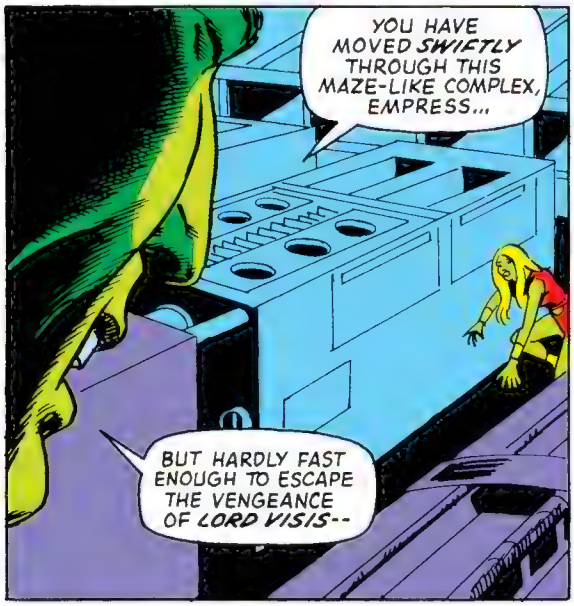
YOUR WORDS ARE MEANINGLESS, OTHERWORLDER. BUT IF YOU SPEAK OF HIDING...
KNOW THAT SUCH IS IMPOSSIBLE FROM ONE WHO WEARS THE BANDS OF LEVITATION!
MASTER ASSASSINS CARRY WEAPONS LOST TO THE REST OF MY WORLD--WE ARE FINISHED, BRUCE!


BUT THOUGH LEVITATION HAS BROUGHT FIALAN INTO PROJECT GREENSKIN UNDETECTED, THE BLASTS FROM HIS WEAPON HAVE SET OFF SENSOR-ALARMS.
WHICH QUICKLY BRING...


GUARDS!
BUT EVEN THEY CANNOT STAND BEFORE MY BLASTER'S FORCE.
--WE ASSASSINS ELITE WOULD BE NOT HIRELINGS ...BUT RULERS!
IF ONLY MORE SUCH ARMAMENT HAD SURVIVED FROM THE GREAT CIVILIZATIONS OF MY PLANET'S PAST--


WHATEVER HE'S USING, THOSE TROOPS ARE NO MATCH FOR IT!
--KNOWING THAT SLIMY-VOICED MURDERER IS COMING NEXT FOR YOU!
CAN'T STAND HELPLESSLY WATCHING MEN DIE--
BRUCE-- NO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING-- WHERE DO YOU GO?

SO! JARELLA'S OTHERWORLDER FLEES! THAT CHAMBER WILL BE NO PROTECTION. ONE BLAST AND--
BUT IN BATTLING, I HAVE LOST SIGHT OF MY TRUE VICTIM! IT MATTERS NOT WHERE THIS ONE SCURRIES.
IT IS THE QUEEN WHO NOW MUST DIE!


YOU HAVE MOVED SWIFTLY THROUGH THIS MAZE-LIKE COMPLEX, EMPRESS...
BUT HARDLY FAST ENOUGH TO ESCAPE THE VENGEANCE OF LORD VISIS--

--AS DELIVERED BY THE ARTFUL HAND OF THE ASSASSIN SUPREME...
FIALAN!

BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN COUNTLESS KILLS, THAT HAND SHAKES...
AS THE VERY AIR SEEMS TO VIBRATE WITH A HIGH-PITCHED WHINE.
W-WHAT?! IT COMES FROM--
FROM THE CHAMBER WHERE YOU SAW BRUCE BANNER SCURRY, FIALAN...
THE CHAMBER WHERE, A DAY AGO, SOLAR ENERGY FROM THE STARCORE ONE REACTOR MADE HIM AN ORDINARY MAN AGAIN...
THE CHAMBER WHERE, DESPITE MISGIVINGS AND FEARS, THE PROCESS HAS BEEN REVERSED...
...AND ROBERT BRUCE BANNER IS ORDINARY NO LONGER!
THWOM!
HULK LIVES!
THE BRUTE JARELLA CHOSE OVER LORD VISIS!
IF YOU LIVE, MONSTER--
--IT IS BUT TO BE SLAIN!
THE WEAPON PAINS BUT DOES NOT STOP THE HULK...THAT IS DONE BY WHAT HE SEES AS FIALAN LEVITATES UPWARD!
YOU ARE...JARELLA! YOU...LOVED HULK!
HULK REMEMBERS NOW. YOU ARE IN DANGER!
THAT'S WHY PUNY BANNER LET HULK COME BACK.
BUT WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE THAT? HULK IS HERE TO HELP YOU, SAVE YOU!
BUT THOUGH THE EMERALD-HUED GIRL STARES...
SHE CANNOT SEEM TO SPEAK, TO SHOUT, OF THE FORGOTTEN ENEMY...
CAUTION
RADIO-ACTIVE ELEMENT
ACCESS PANEL

...OR OF HIS WEAPON LEVELED AT THE ARRAY OF EQUIPMENT BEHIND THEM...
ZRAK!
...VOLATILE EQUIPMENT!
I THOUGHT SUCH VAST MACHINERY MIGHT REACT THUSLY...
YET IT WAS POTENT BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS!
AND WELL PERHAPS THAT IT WAS.
FOR NOW IT IS CERTAIN. NEITHER QUEEN NOR HER BRUTE SURVI--
BUT THERE ARE FEW CERTAINTIES, FIALAN. AND MOST UNCERTAIN OF ALL IS--
THE HULK!
SHE IS DEAD. HULK FINALLY FINDS JARELLA... AND YOU KILL HER!
GODS OF K'AI...!
YOU!
MY BANDS OF LEVITATION...! THE BLAST DAMAGED THEM!
YOU!
YOU KILL THE ONE GIRL WHO LOVES HULK FOR WHAT HE IS!
AND NOW--
HULK KILLS YOU!
AAAHHHHHHH!
20

HULK DID IT...
BUT...
IT DOES NOT BRING JARELLA BACK....!
HULK IS ALONE AGAIN.
MORE ALONE THAN EVER.
NO... NO, MY LOVE!
WHAT YOU SAW DIE WAS A REPLICA... A MACHINE... THAT WAS LIKE ME.
FIALAN MADE THE SAME MISTAKE.
HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT YOU ARE REAL... YOU ARE BACK. AND HULK WILL SEE NOBODY TAKES YOU AWAY AGAIN!
GET CORBEAU... AND MORE HELP, TALBOT! WE SAVED THE GIRL BY TURNING LOOSE THAT LMD DURING THE ASSASSIN'S ATTACK...
BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?
HULK, LISTEN... YOU MUST LET JARELLA COME WITH US. SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS HAPPENING TO THE SUN... IT COULD DESTROY YOU, THE WORLD.
WITH THE LMD GONE, ONLY JARELLA CAN SAVE US.
TIME IS VANISHING. CAN YOU COMPREHEND, TRY TO SEE....?
HULK SEES YOU WANT TO TAKE ONLY GOOD THING IN HIS LIFE.!
DON'T CARE ABOUT THE SUN... THE WORLD... ONLY JARELLA!
TOUCH HER AND SEE HOW FAST THE HULK CAN SMASH!

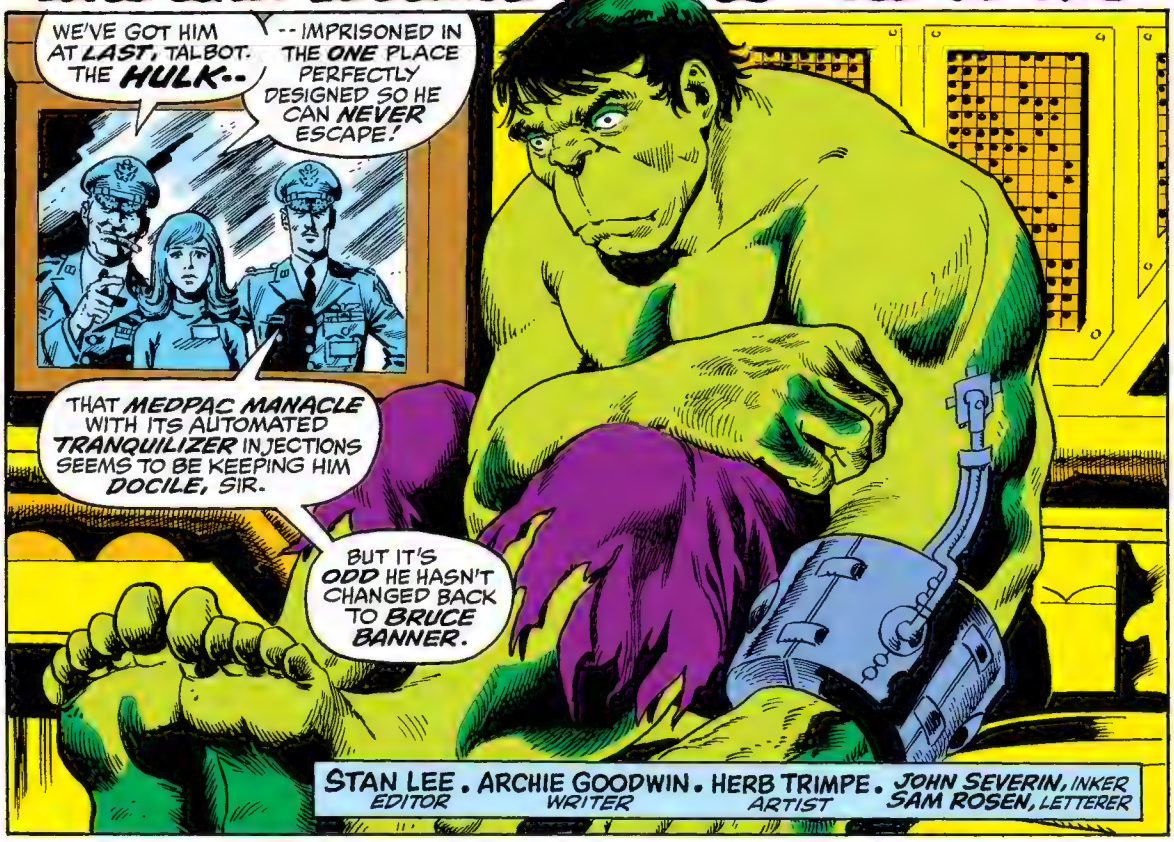
BRUCE... HULK! DR. CORBEAU SPEAKS TRULY. TRUST HIM--
NO! HE STANDS WITH ONES WHO HAVE HUNTED, TRICKED HULK BEFORE!
THIS IS NOT YOUR WORLD, JARELLA. YOU DO NOT KNOW WHA--
NOW! FULL BLASTS WITH THE TRANQUILIZER GUNS!
YOU CAN RELAX, GENERAL ROSS... LOOKS LIKE WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!
W-WHAT?! HAD YOU BUT WAITED, I MIGHT HAVE--
TIME, JARELLA... IT'S RUNNING OUT FOR ALL OF US.
BUT THERE IS SO MUCH I HAVE TO SAY TO HIM.
I WAS ABOUT TO TELL HIM WHEN FIALAN STRUCK.
ABOVE ALL ELSE, I AM A QUEEN. MY PLACE IS WITH MY PEOPLE IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED. I COULD NOT STAY HERE AND LET AN EMPTY REPLICA BE RETURNED IN MY PLACE.
THOUGH I LOVE HIM, PERHAPS THIS WAY IS BEST. PERHAPS WHEN HE AWAKES...
IT WILL SEEM BUT ANOTHER DREAM... THAT DID NOT COME TRUE.
AND IT IS BUT MINUTES LATER THAT WORD IS DELIVERED TO GENERAL ROSS...
IT WORKED, SIR! THE GIRL AND THE BODY OF THAT ASSASSIN WERE TRANSFERRED BACK.
THE SUN'S NOVA CONDITION IS ALREADY STARTING TO FADE!
AND WE'RE RIGHT WHERE WE STARTED, EH, GENERAL?
NOT QUITE, TALBOT.
THE HULK'S AT PROJECT GREENSKIN NOW. MAYBE WE CAN'T CURE HIM...
BUT HE'S IN A PLACE SPECIALLY DESIGNED SO THAT --HE CAN NEVER ESCAPE!!
22
NEXT: HIS LEGACY IS OUR EARTH-- THE INHERITOR!

INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢
149
MAR
02456
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INCREDIBLE HULK™
YOUR WORLD BELONGS TO ME NOW---
--AND THERE IS NO ROOM ON IT-- FOR THE HULK!
I, THE INHERITOR!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

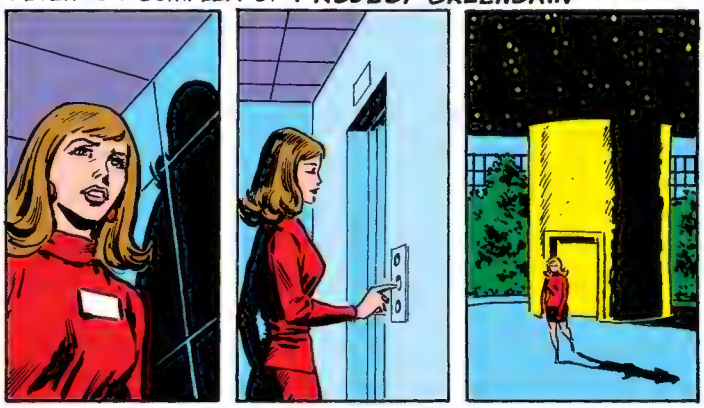
...AND WHO SHALL CLAIM THIS EARTH HIS OWN?

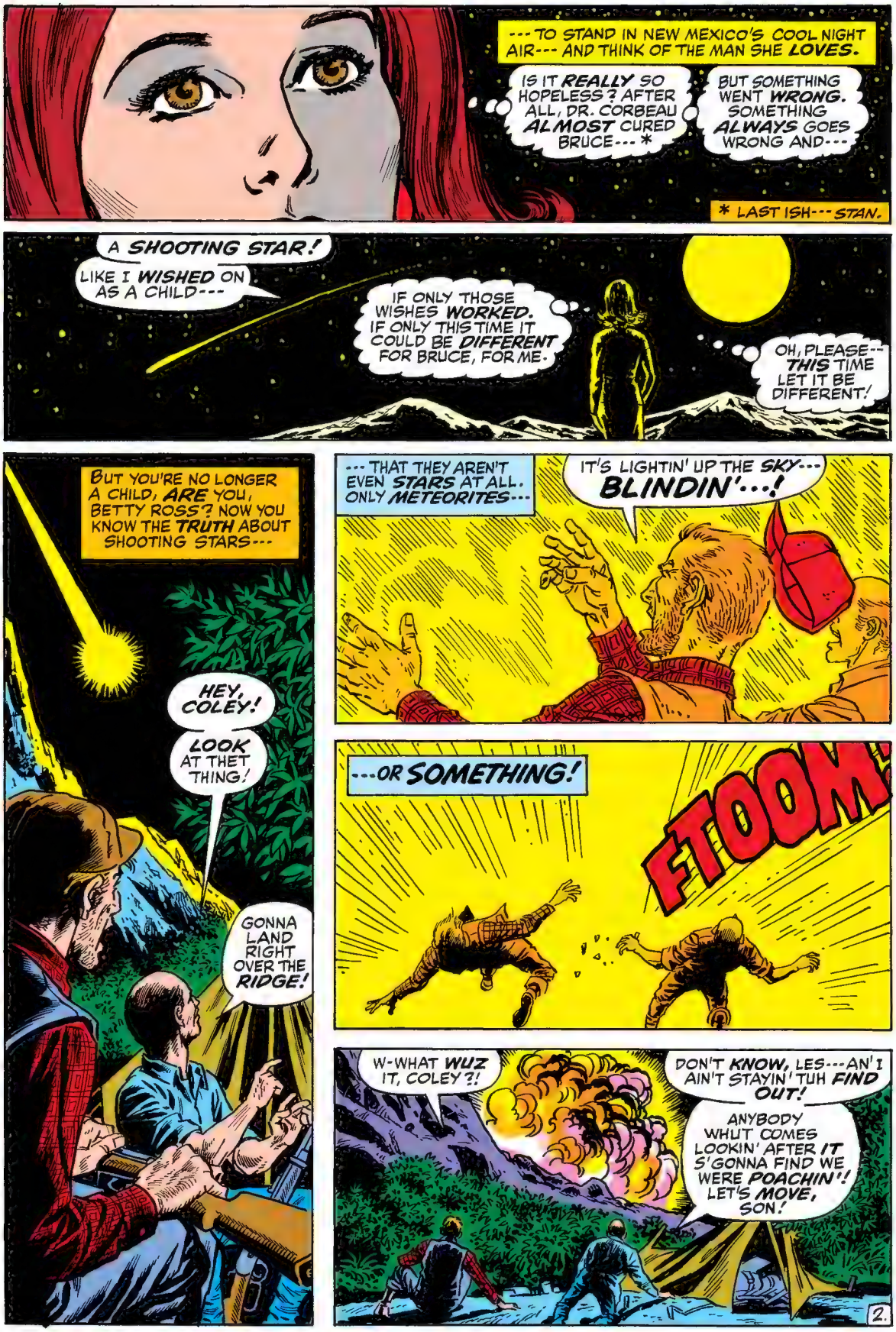
THE INHERITOR!


WE'VE GOT HIM AT LAST, TALBOT. THE HULK--
--IMPRISONED IN THE ONE PLACE PERFECTLY DESIGNED SO HE CAN NEVER ESCAPE!
THAT MEDPAC MANACLE WITH ITS AUTOMATED TRANQUILIZER INJECTIONS SEEMS TO BE KEEPING HIM DOCILE, SIR.
BUT IT'S ODD HE HASN'T CHANGED BACK TO BRUCE BANNER.

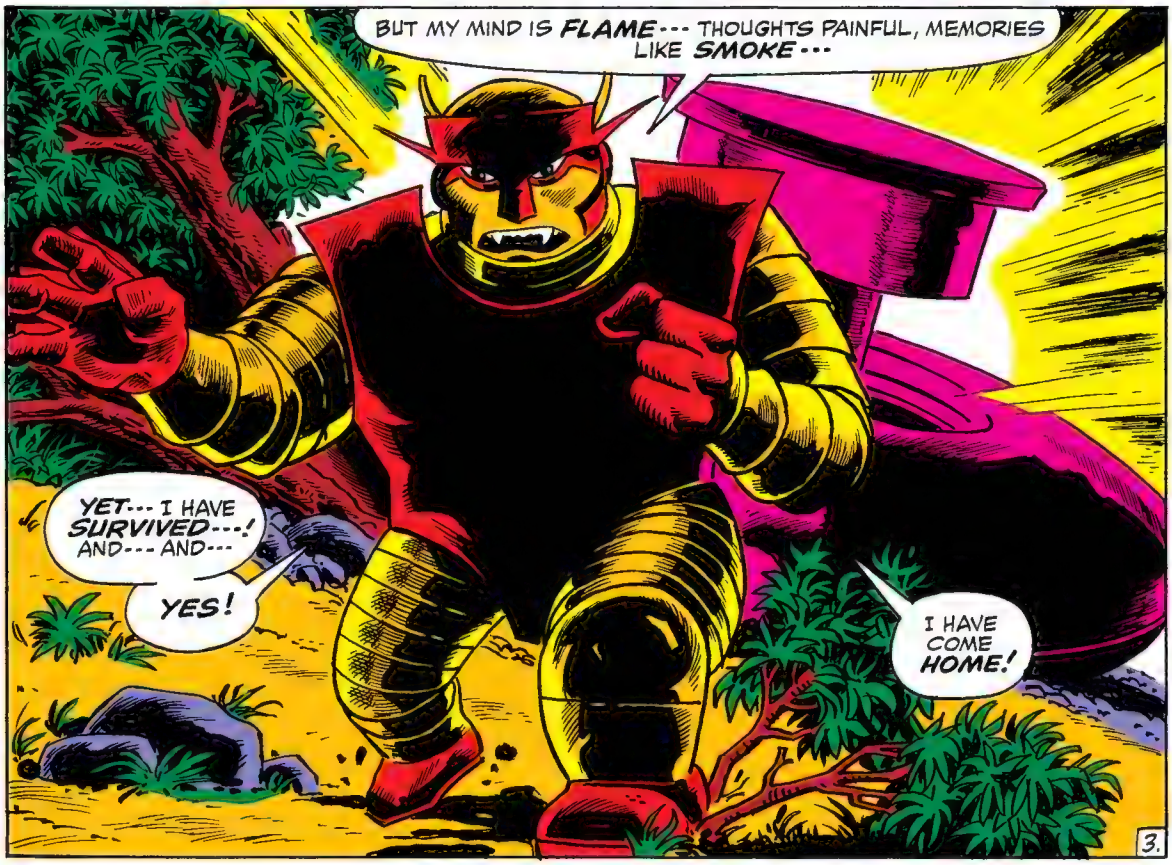
STAN LEE. EDITOR · ARCHIE GOODWIN. WRITER · HERB TRIMPE. ARTIST · JOHN SEVERIN, INKER · SAM ROSEN, LETTERER

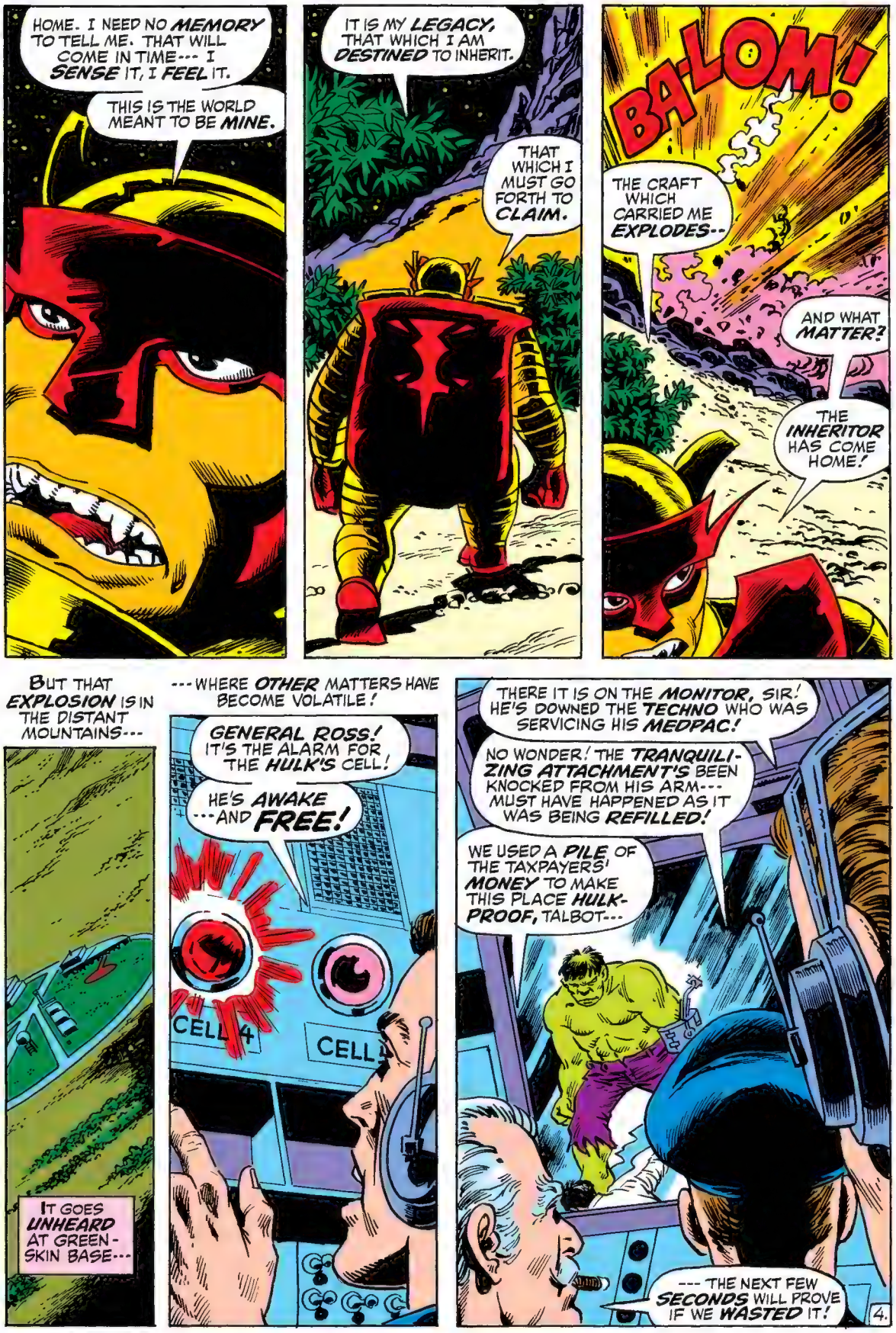
BUT GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS GOES UNHEARD BY HIS DAUGHTER, AS SHE MOODILY LEAVES THE UNDERGROUND DETENTION COMPLEX OF PROJECT GREENSKIN---



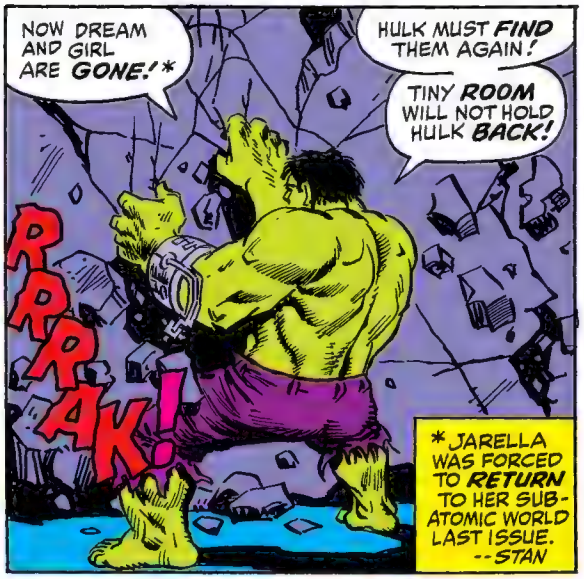

--- TO STAND IN NEW MEXICO'S COOL NIGHT AIR--- AND THINK OF THE MAN SHE LOVES.
IS IT REALLY SO HOPELESS? AFTER ALL, DR. CORBEAU ALMOST CURED BRUCE--- *
BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG. SOMETHING ALWAYS GOES WRONG AND---
* LAST ISH--- STAN.
A SHOOTING STAR!
LIKE I WISHED ON AS A CHILD---
IF ONLY THOSE WISHES WORKED. IF ONLY THIS TIME IT COULD BE DIFFERENT FOR BRUCE, FOR ME.
OH, PLEASE-- THIS TIME LET IT BE DIFFERENT!
BUT YOU'RE NO LONGER A CHILD, ARE YOU, BETTY ROSS? NOW YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT SHOOTING STARS---
HEY, COLEY!
LOOK AT THET THING!
GONNA LAND RIGHT OVER THE RIDGE!
--- THAT THEY AREN'T EVEN STARS AT ALL. ONLY METEORITES---
IT'S LIGHTIN' UP THE SKY--- BLINDIN'---!
---OR SOMETHING!
FTOOM
W-WHAT WUZ IT, COLEY?!
DON'T KNOW, LES---AN' I AIN'T STAYIN' TUH FIND OUT!
ANYBODY WHUT COMES LOOKIN' AFTER IT S'GONNA FIND WE WERE POACHIN'! LET'S MOVE, SON!
2.

NO, BETTY ROSS. WHAT HAS FALLEN FROM THE SKY INSIDE THAT OBJECT BURIED IN RED MOUNTAIN CLAY, WHAT HAS SENT TWO SLAUGHTERERS OF SO-CALLED PROTECTED GAME FLEEING--- **THIS** WILL GRANT NO WISHES, FULFILL NO DREAMS. EXCEPT PERHAPS--- ITS **OWN.**

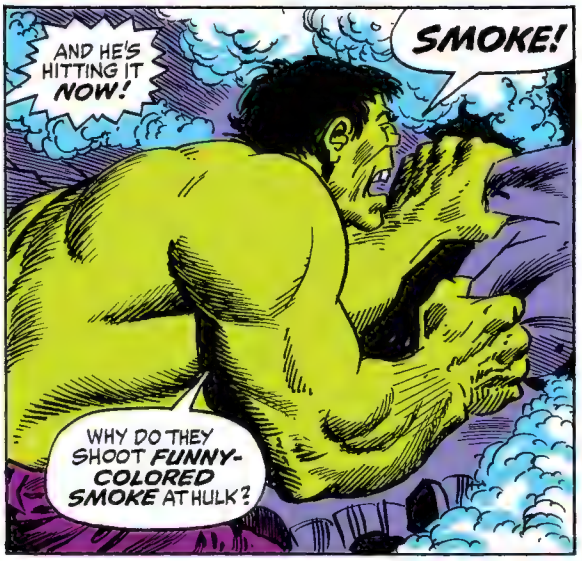



HOME. I NEED NO MEMORY TO TELL ME. THAT WILL COME IN TIME--- I SENSE IT, I FEEL IT.
THIS IS THE WORLD MEANT TO BE MINE.
IT IS MY LEGACY, THAT WHICH I AM DESTINED TO INHERIT.
THAT WHICH I MUST GO FORTH TO CLAIM.
BA-LOM!
THE CRAFT WHICH CARRIED ME EXPLODES--
AND WHAT MATTER?
THE INHERITOR HAS COME HOME!
BUT THAT EXPLOSION IS IN THE DISTANT MOUNTAINS---
IT GOES UNHEARD AT GREEN-SKIN BASE---
---WHERE OTHER MATTERS HAVE BECOME VOLATILE!
GENERAL ROSS! IT'S THE ALARM FOR THE HULK'S CELL!
HE'S AWAKE ---AND FREE!
CELL 4
CELL 4
THERE IT IS ON THE MONITOR, SIR! HE'S DOWNED THE TECHNO WHO WAS SERVICING HIS MEDPAC!
NO WONDER! THE TRANQUILI-ZING ATTACHMENT'S BEEN KNOCKED FROM HIS ARM--- MUST HAVE HAPPENED AS IT WAS BEING REFILLED!
WE USED A PILE OF THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY TO MAKE THIS PLACE HULK-PROOF, TALBOT---
--- THE NEXT FEW SECONDS WILL PROVE IF WE WASTED IT!
4.

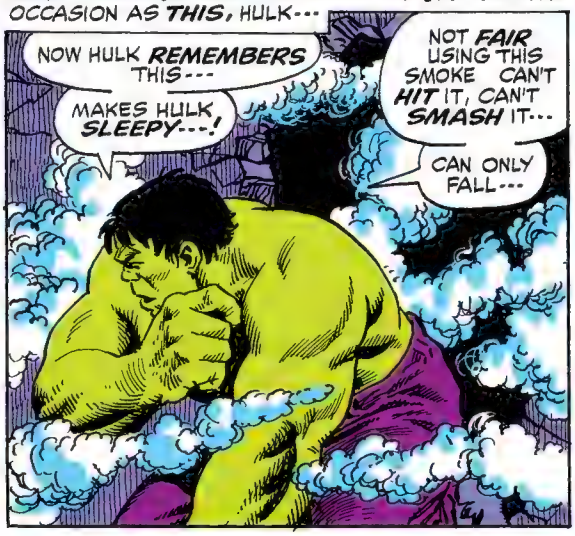
WHY DO MEN ALWAYS BOTHER HULK? HULK WAS DREAMING--- DREAMING OF BEAUTIFUL GIRL WITH GREEN SKIN.
SHE UNDERSTOOD HULK--- LOVED HULK.
JARELLA. THAT WAS HER NAME.


NOW DREAM AND GIRL ARE GONE!*
HULK MUST FIND THEM AGAIN!
TINY ROOM WILL NOT HOLD HULK BACK!
RRRAK!
*JARELLA WAS FORCED TO RETURN TO HER SUB-ATOMIC WORLD LAST ISSUE. --STAN

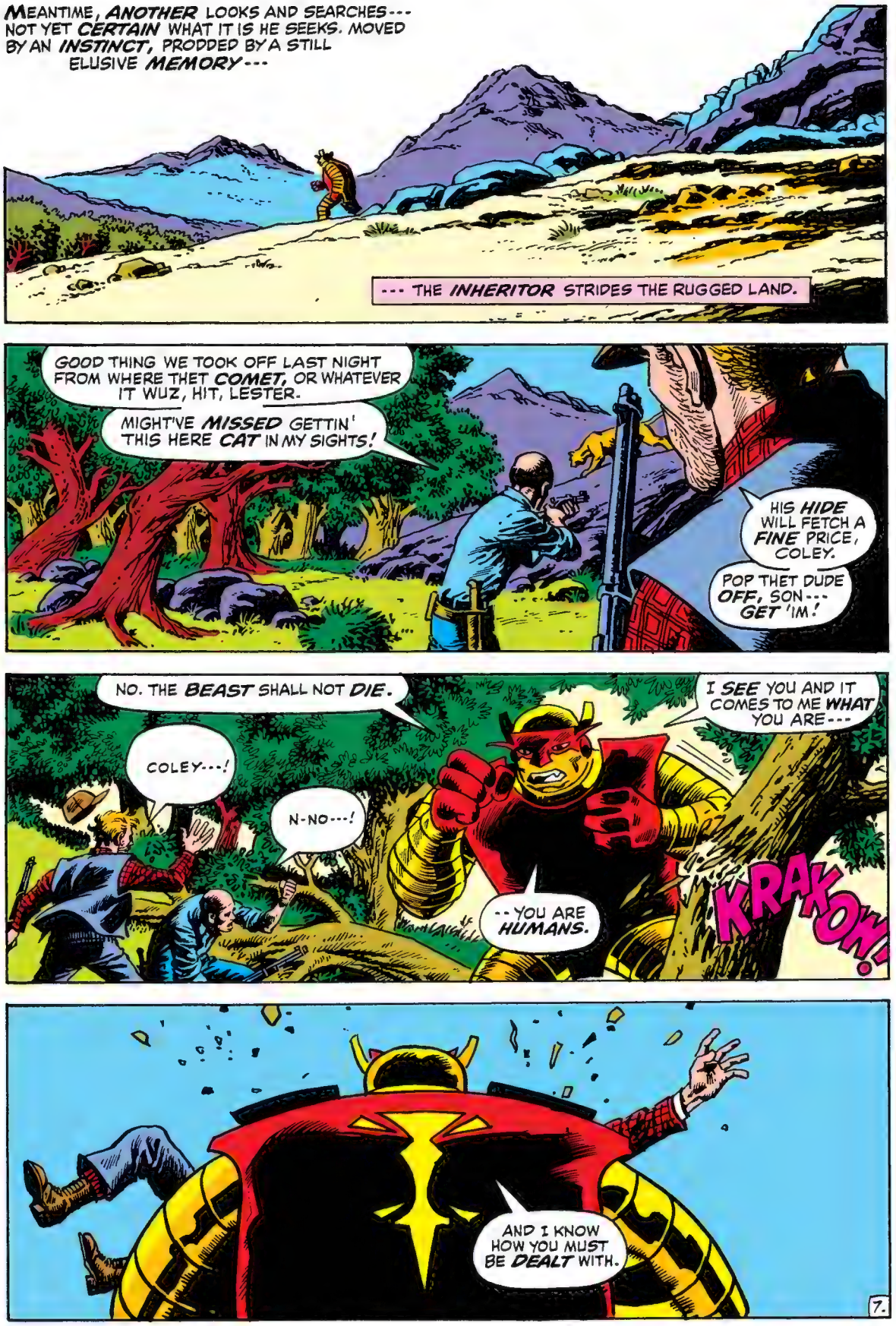
GOOD LORD, SIR! HE'S TEARING THROUGH TEN FEET OF STEEL-REINFORCED CONCRETE LIKE IT WAS WET KLEENEX!
THAT'S ONLY THE FIRST OF THE DOUBLE WALLS, MAJOR!
IT'S WHAT'S BETWEEN THEM THAT WILL TELL THE STORY!

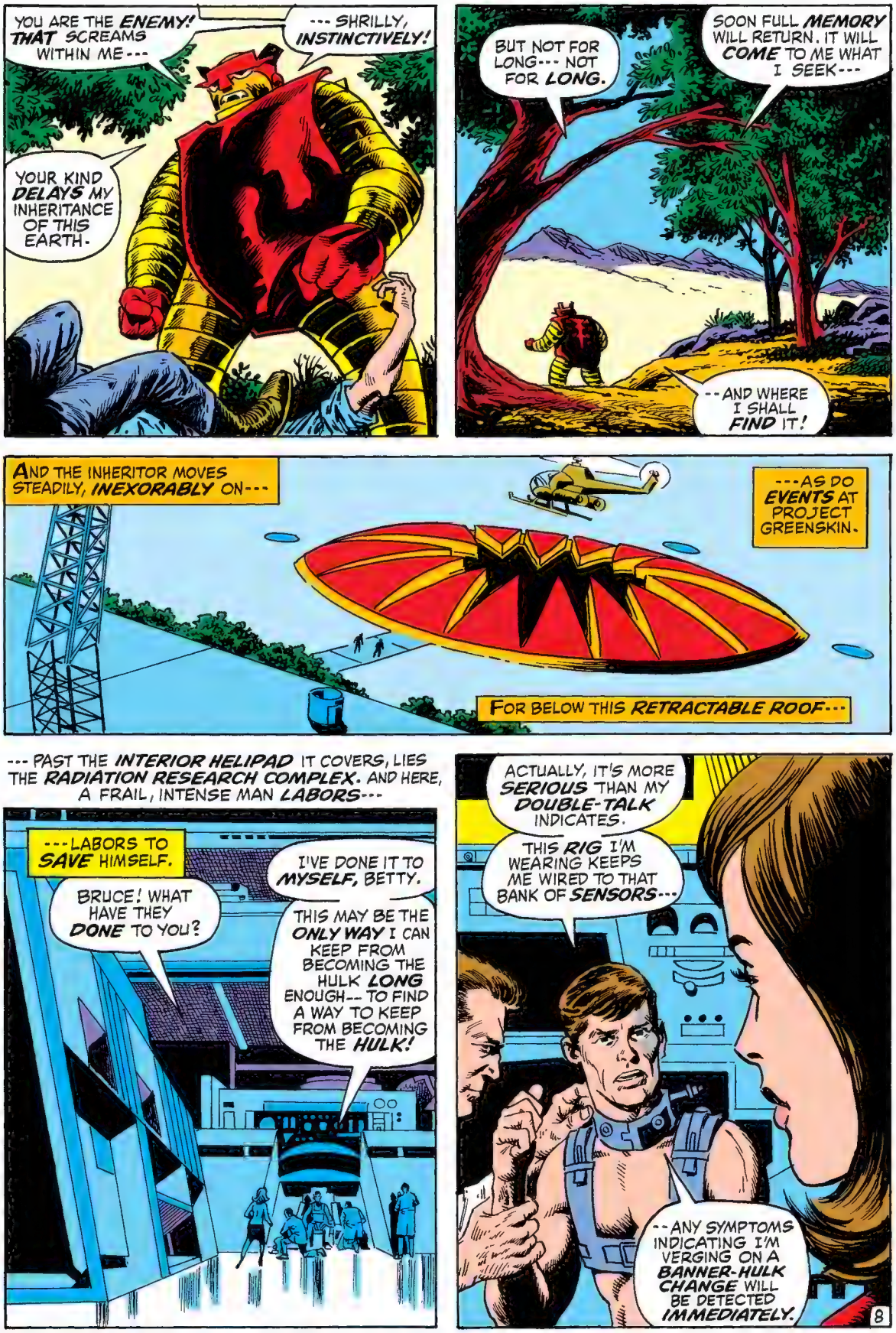


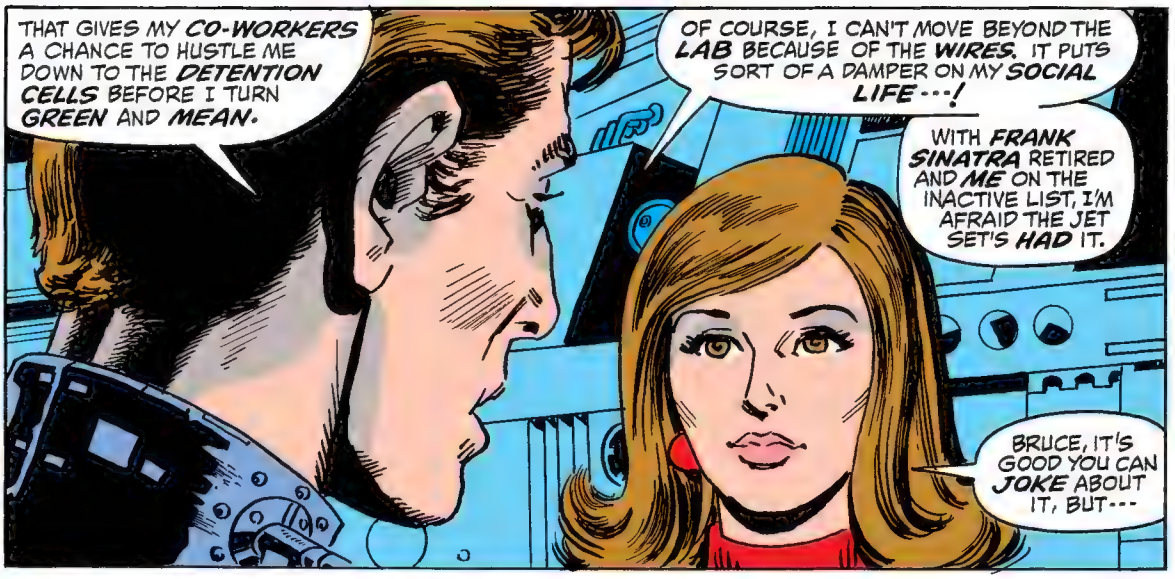
PERHAPS BECAUSE IT'S A LAYER OF TRANQUILIZER GAS PLACED BETWEEN THE WALLS FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION AS THIS, HULK---



SUCH A MASSIVE TRANQUILIZER DOSE---
---HAS FINALLY TAKEN EFFECT.
HE'S CHANGING BACK TO---
---BRUCE BANNER!
AND WHEN IT SEEMS CERTAIN THERE WILL BE NO SUDDEN CHANGE BACK---
BRUCE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU SEEM SO DAZED, GROGGY---
CHANGES SEEM TO GET ROUGHER, MORE DEBILITATING--
THINK I'M OKAY NOW--!
I SEE BY THE DECOR THAT THIS ISN'T THE LOCAL HOLIDAY INN. BUT I GUESS IT'S PERFECT FOR A ONE-TIME FIANCE WITH A RATHER PRONOUNCED SKIN PROBLEM.
DARLING, I DON'T LIKE YOUR BEING HELD HERE BECAUSE OF THE HULK, EITHER, BUT---
BUT I'VE TRIED TO CONVINCE MY DAUGHTER, AND MAYBE I CAN SELL YOU, BANNER--
--THIS ISN'T JUST A PRISON. WE'VE A RADIATION LAB WITH TOP SCIENTISTS STAFFING IT!
DAD'S CERTAIN THAT IF A CURE CAN BE FOUND, IT'LL BE HERE!
YOU'RE STILL A LEADING NUCLEAR PHYSICIST, MAN, WITH YOU HEADING RESEARCH--
"---THERE'S A CHANCE!" OH, LORD, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I HEARD THAT, THOUGHT THAT. AND THEN FOUND---!
SORRY. A MAN GETS TIRED, CYNICAL. YOU'RE RIGHT--- NO MATTER WHAT ELSE, WE'VE GOT TO KEEP LOOKING, SEARCHING---

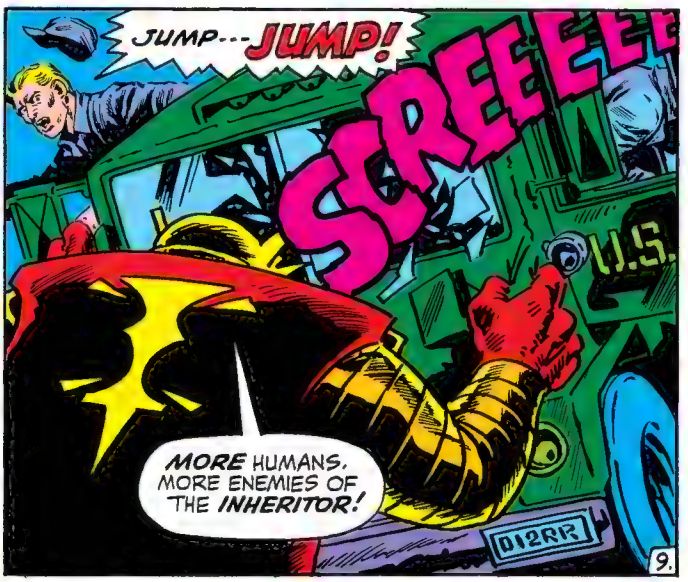

MEANTIME, ANOTHER LOOKS AND SEARCHES--- NOT YET CERTAIN WHAT IT IS HE SEEKS. MOVED BY AN INSTINCT, PRODDED BY A STILL ELUSIVE MEMORY---
--- THE INHERITOR STRIDES THE RUGGED LAND.
GOOD THING WE TOOK OFF LAST NIGHT FROM WHERE THET COMET, OR WHATEVER IT WUZ, HIT, LESTER.
MIGHT'VE MISSED GETTIN' THIS HERE CAT IN MY SIGHTS!
HIS HIDE WILL FETCH A FINE PRICE, COLEY.
POP THET DUDE OFF, SON--- GET 'IM!
NO. THE BEAST SHALL NOT DIE.
COLEY---!
N-NO---!
I SEE YOU AND IT COMES TO ME WHAT YOU ARE---
--YOU ARE HUMANS.
KRAKOW!
AND I KNOW HOW YOU MUST BE DEALT WITH.
7.

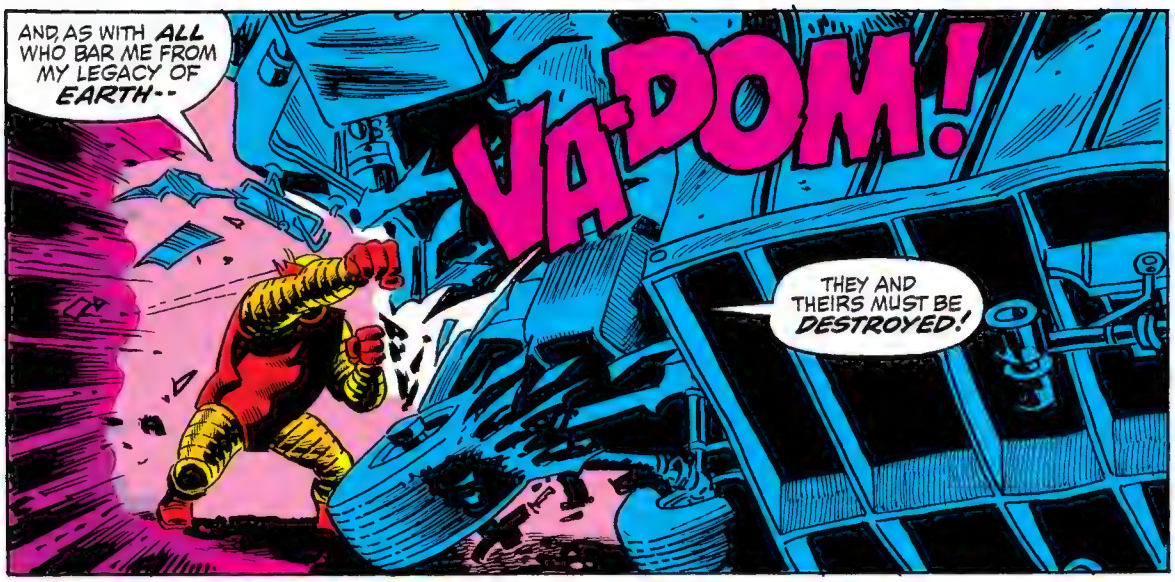

YOU ARE THE ENEMY! THAT SCREAMS WITHIN ME---
--- SHRILLY, INSTINCTIVELY!
YOUR KIND DELAYS MY INHERITANCE OF THIS EARTH.
BUT NOT FOR LONG--- NOT FOR LONG.
SOON FULL MEMORY WILL RETURN. IT WILL COME TO ME WHAT I SEEK---
--AND WHERE I SHALL FIND IT!
AND THE INHERITOR MOVES STEADILY, INEXORABLY ON---
---AS DO EVENTS AT PROJECT GREENSKIN.
FOR BELOW THIS RETRACTABLE ROOF---
--- PAST THE INTERIOR HELIPAD IT COVERS, LIES THE RADIATION RESEARCH COMPLEX. AND HERE, A FRAIL, INTENSE MAN LABORS---
---LABORS TO SAVE HIMSELF.
BRUCE! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
I'VE DONE IT TO MYSELF, BETTY.
THIS MAY BE THE ONLY WAY I CAN KEEP FROM BECOMING THE HULK LONG ENOUGH--- TO FIND A WAY TO KEEP FROM BECOMING THE HULK!
ACTUALLY, IT'S MORE SERIOUS THAN MY DOUBLE-TALK INDICATES.
THIS RIG I'M WEARING KEEPS ME WIRED TO THAT BANK OF SENSORS---
--ANY SYMPTOMS INDICATING I'M VERGING ON A BANNER-HULK CHANGE WILL BE DETECTED IMMEDIATELY.
8

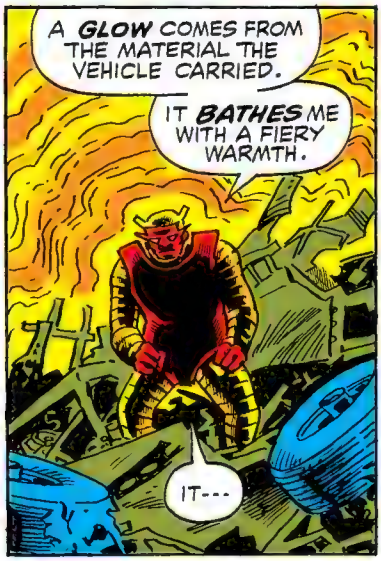

THAT GIVES MY CO-WORKERS A CHANCE TO HUSTLE ME DOWN TO THE DETENTION CELLS BEFORE I TURN GREEN AND MEAN.
OF COURSE, I CAN'T MOVE BEYOND THE LAB BECAUSE OF THE WIRES. IT PUTS SORT OF A DAMPER ON MY SOCIAL LIFE---!
WITH FRANK SINATRA RETIRED AND ME ON THE INACTIVE LIST, I'M AFRAID THE JET SET'S HAD IT.
BRUCE, IT'S GOOD YOU CAN JOKE ABOUT IT, BUT---

BUT ISN'T THERE A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM?
MAYBE. THE REST OF THIS EQUIPMENT IS PART OF AN EXPERIMENT IN DRAINING OFF RADIATION AS IT BUILDS---
AND YOU THINK IT COULD DRAIN AWAY THE FORCES THAT MAKE YOU THE HULK?
I DON'T KNOW, BETTY. TO THINK ABOUT IT REQUIRES HOPING---
AND I'VE BEEN AFRAID TO DO THAT FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!

NIGHT. AND ALONG THE HIGHWAY LEADING TO MOBILE COMBAT FORCE ONE, GENERAL ROSS'S COMMAND---

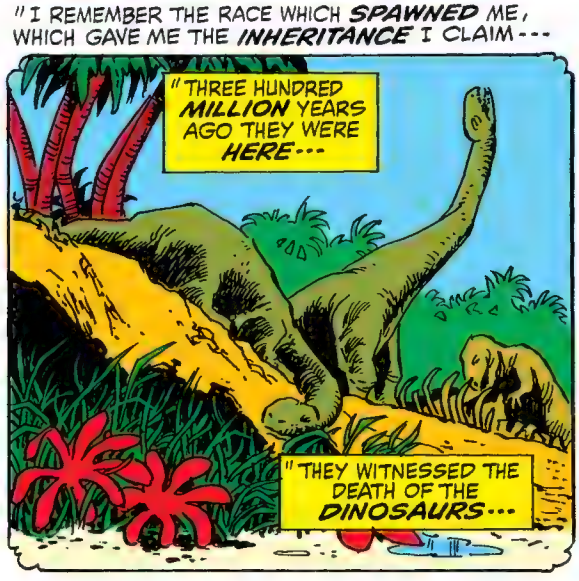


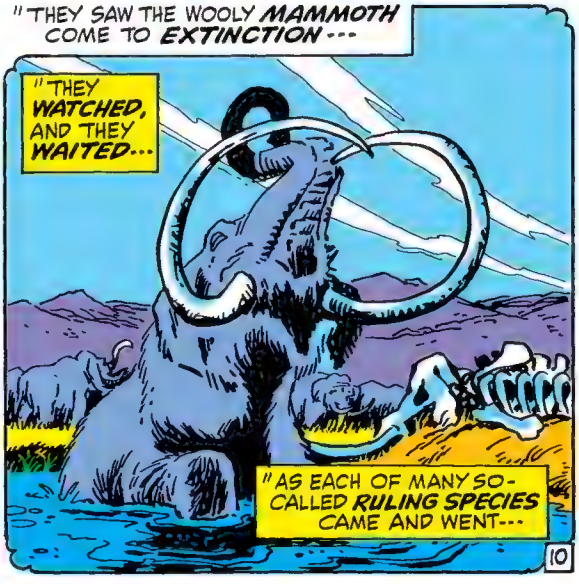

AND, AS WITH ALL WHO BAR ME FROM MY LEGACY OF EARTH--
VA-DOM!
THEY AND THEIRS MUST BE DESTROYED!

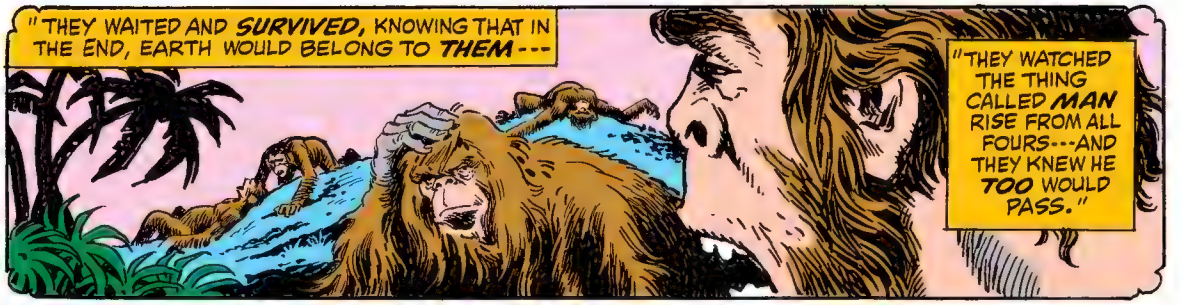

A GLOW COMES FROM THE MATERIAL THE VEHICLE CARRIED.
IT BATHES ME WITH A FIERY WARMTH.
IT---

IT IS THAT WHICH I SEEK! IT MUST BE--!
FOR I FEEL A RESURGENCE OF STRENGTH--- OF VITALITY---

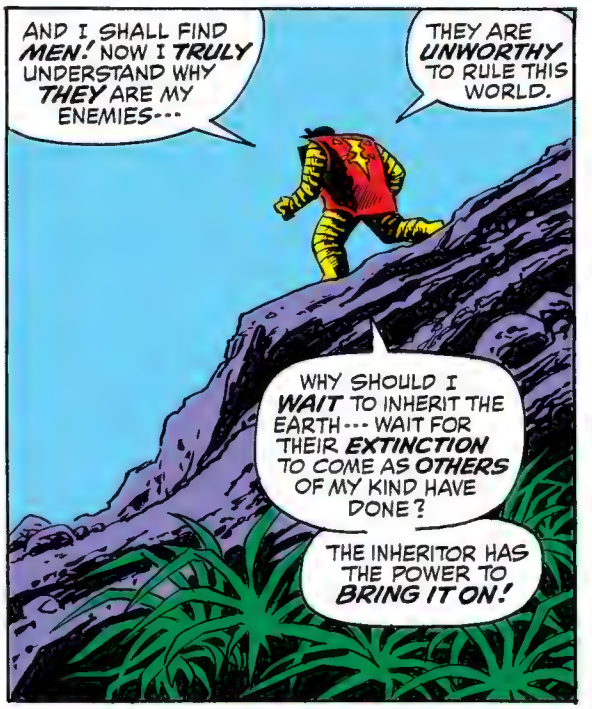
---OF MEMORY! THE THOUGHTS COME---! I REMEMBER---


"I REMEMBER THE RACE WHICH SPAWNED ME, WHICH GAVE ME THE INHERITANCE I CLAIM---
"THREE HUNDRED MILLION YEARS AGO THEY WERE HERE---
"THEY WITNESSED THE DEATH OF THE DINOSAURS---

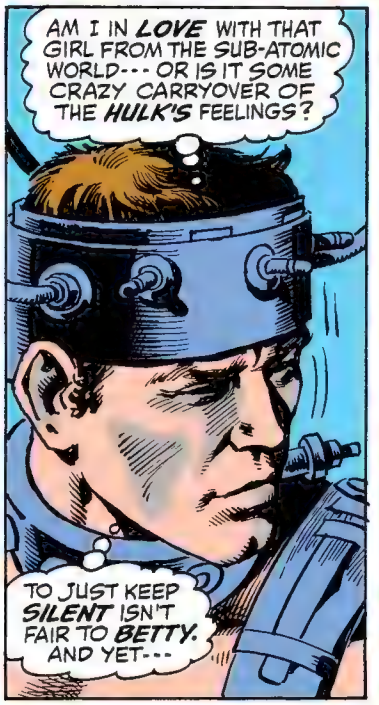

"THEY SAW THE WOOLY MAMMOTH COME TO EXTINCTION---
"THEY WATCHED, AND THEY WAITED---
"AS EACH OF MANY SO-CALLED RULING SPECIES CAME AND WENT---


"THEY WAITED AND SURVIVED, KNOWING THAT IN THE END, EARTH WOULD BELONG TO THEM---
"THEY WATCHED THE THING CALLED MAN RISE FROM ALL FOURS---AND THEY KNEW HE TOO WOULD PASS."

BUT AGAIN, THE MEMORIES FADE! I NEED MORE OF THE GLOWING MATERIAL.
THERE IS WHERE THE VEHICLE WAS HEADING---THERE SURELY I SHALL FIND THE SOURCE FOR WHAT I NEED!


AND I SHALL FIND MEN! NOW I TRULY UNDERSTAND WHY THEY ARE MY ENEMIES---
THEY ARE UNWORTHY TO RULE THIS WORLD.
WHY SHOULD I WAIT TO INHERIT THE EARTH--- WAIT FOR THEIR EXTINCTION TO COME AS OTHERS OF MY KIND HAVE DONE?
THE INHERITOR HAS THE POWER TO BRING IT ON!

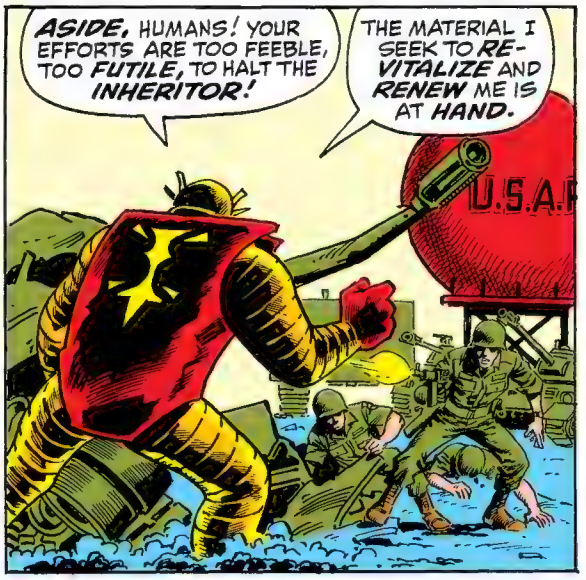
WELL, BANNER, YOU'VE MANAGED TO TELL BETTY ALL ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN CURING YOURSELF---
---BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR OTHER PROBLEM--- WHAT ABOUT JARELLA?


AM I IN LOVE WITH THAT GIRL FROM THE SUB-ATOMIC WORLD--- OR IS IT SOME CRAZY CARRYOVER OF THE HULK'S FEELINGS?
TO JUST KEEP SILENT ISN'T FAIR TO BETTY. AND YET---

THOOM!
WHAT---?!
SOMETHING BIG'S JUST HIT THE BUILDING---
--AND HIT IT HARD!

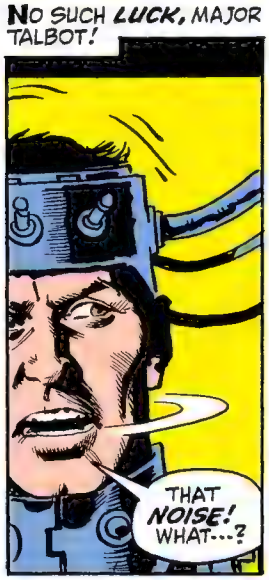
EVERY ALARM ON THE BASE IS GOIN' OFF LIKE CRAZY!
WE'RE UNDER SOME KIND OF ATTACK!
STAY CALM, BANNER--- THIS IS NO TIME TO GET EXCITED.
THERE'S ENOUGH PANIC ALREADY WITHOUT YOU TURNING INTO THE HULK!
YES, ROBERT BRUCE BANNER, THERE IS PANIC--- AND THERE IS FEAR AND COWARDICE---AS WELL AS COURAGE AND HEROISM, CAUTION AND BRAVADO. THERE IS EVERY EMOTION YOU MIGHT FIND ON A BATTLEFIELD.
FOR THAT IS WHAT "PROJECT GREENSKIN" BASE HAS BECOME!
DELMENDO
THE MEN OF COMBAT FORCE ONE ARE SUDDENLY, SAVAGELY AT WAR WITH THE INHERITOR...
---AND THEY ARE LOSING!
PART
12

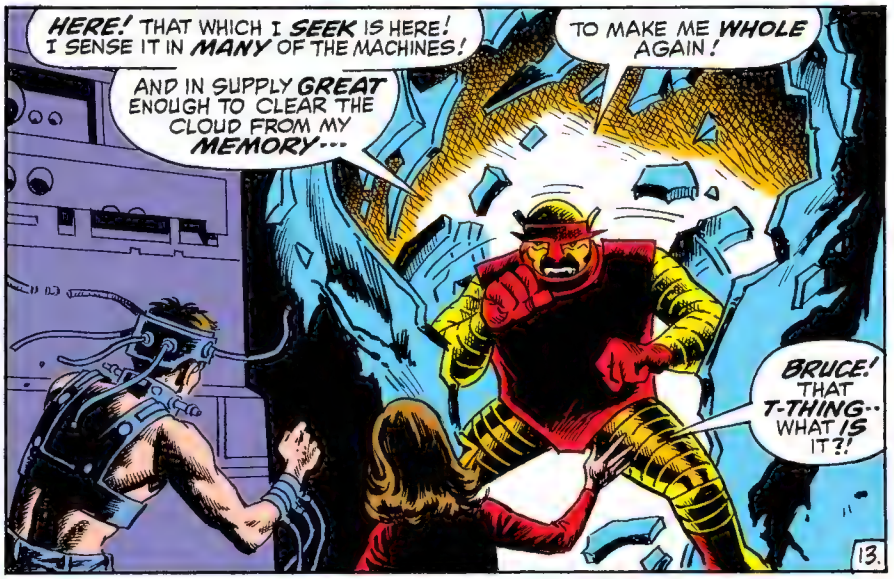
ORDER OUT THE REST OF OUR ARMORED UNITS!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING THAT CAN STOP THAT LUMBERING NIGHTMARE!
I HOPE SO, SIR--- THOSE LAST TWO TANKS SURE DIDN'T!


ASIDE, HUMANS! YOUR EFFORTS ARE TOO FEEBLE, TOO FUTILE, TO HALT THE INHERITOR!
THE MATERIAL I SEEK TO RE-VITALIZE AND RENEW ME IS AT HAND.
U.S.A.F

I CAN FEEL IT--- CALLING ME, DRAWING ME---!
AND ANY WHO CHOOSE TO STAND IN MY PATH TOWARD IT--- CHOOSE TO DIE!
THAT'S THE ELEVATOR SHAFT TO THE RADIATION RESEARCH COMPLEX!
GOT TO STOP 'IM! FIRE! FIRE!

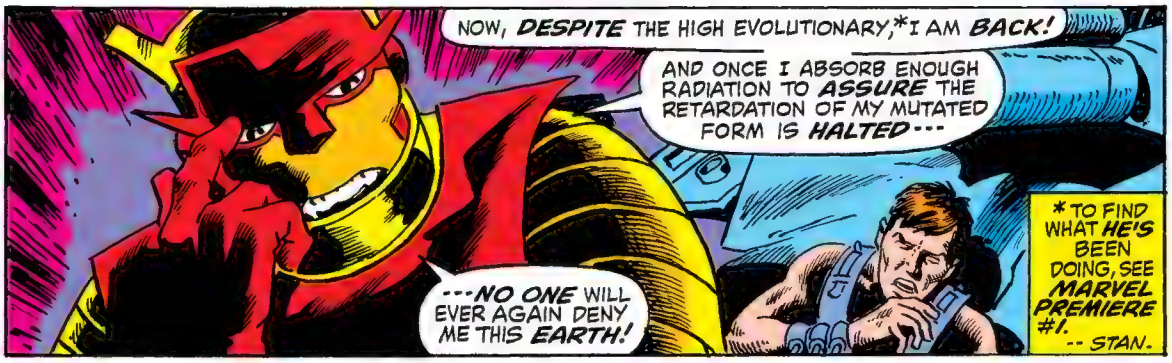
NO USE! THAT ARMOR--- OR WHATEVER HE WEARS-- SEEMS IMPERVIOUS TO SHOT AND SHELL.
GET TO EMERGENCY SHAFT FOUR! MAYBE WE CAN HEAD HIM OFF BEFORE---


NO SUCH LUCK, MAJOR TALBOT!
THAT NOISE! WHAT---?

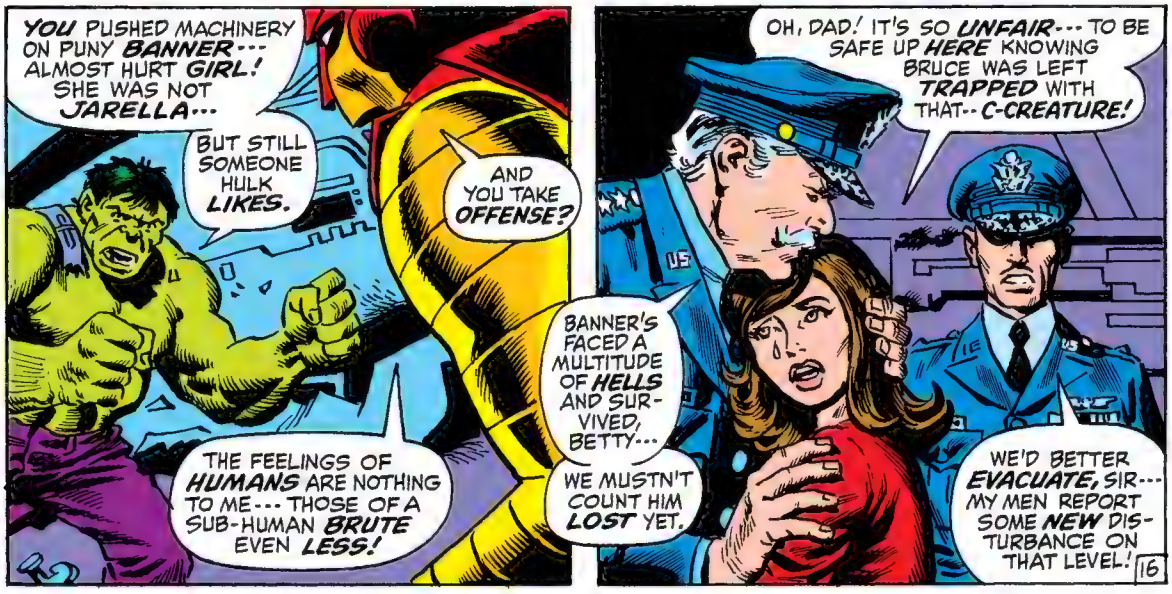

HERE! THAT WHICH I SEEK IS HERE! I SENSE IT IN MANY OF THE MACHINES!
AND IN SUPPLY GREAT ENOUGH TO CLEAR THE CLOUD FROM MY MEMORY---
TO MAKE ME WHOLE AGAIN!
BRUCE! THAT T-THING-- WHAT IS IT?!

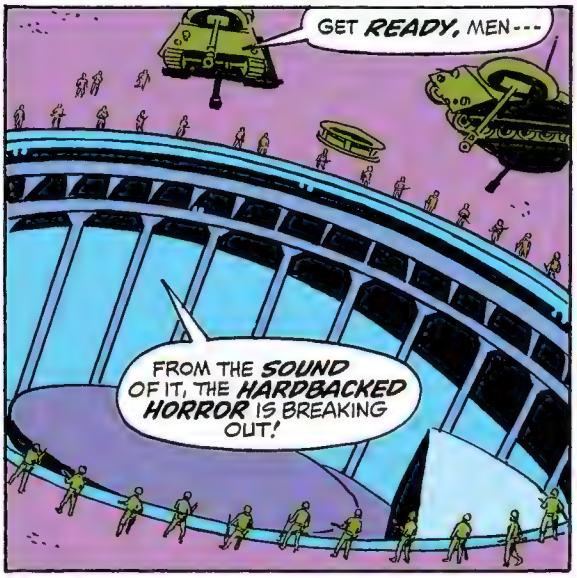
I AM HE WHO SHALL BESTRIDE THIS EARTH LONG AFTER YOUR KIND HAS VANISHED, WOMAN---
I AM THE INHERITOR!
WOM
BETTY! WATCH OUT!
DOCTOR BANNER!
YOU PUSHED MISS ROSS OUT OF THE WAY, BUT THE EQUIPMENT...
DON'T BOTHER TELLING ME WHERE THE EQUIPMENT FELL, MAN--
I ALREADY KNOW!
THE SENSOR HARNESS TOOK MOST OF THE IMPACT, BUT I'M PINNED DOWN.
GET BETTY AND EVERYONE ELSE OUT OF HERE!
THAT MACHINE HE'S HAMMERING AT HAS ITS OWN MINIATURE RADIOACTIVE PILE!
ANY SECOND, THE LAB COULD BE FLOODED WITH RADIATION!
RRR!!...IP!
INHERITOR--- WHOEVER YOU ARE---
STOP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
TOO LATE, HUMAN?
NO. IT IS JUST IN TIME.
FOR, I AM BATHED IN THAT WHICH I MUST HAVE!
AGAIN IT RESTORES ME-- AGAIN IT BRINGS BACK MY MEMORY...

AND THIS TIME--- I REMEMBER ALL!
MOST PARTICULARLY --- HE WHO MADE ME WHAT I AM.
HE WHO WAS CALLED--
"--THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.*
MY GENETIC ACCELERATOR SHAPED YOU FROM A LOW ORDER OF LIFE INTO A NEW-MAN.
YET YOU REFUSE TO ABIDE BY THE CODE I DEMAND?
*THIS TAKES PLACE PRIOR TO H.E.'S FIRST MARVEL APPEARANCE IN THOR # 134. -- STAN
YOU CALL IT A CODE OF CHIVALRY, BUT IT IS ONE OF SUB-SERVIENCE--- TO HUMANS!
WHERE IS THE HONOR IN BEING A NEW-MAN WHEN I AM SUPERIOR TO MAN?
ON THE CLOCK OF EARTH HISTORY, MANKIND IS STILL BUT A FEW FLEET SECONDS.
MY KIND HAS WITH-STOOD THE TEST OF EONS!
BUT UNTIL YOU, THEY WERE CONTENT TO EXIST, NOT DOMINATE.
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO MAKE YOU A SUBJECT FOR GENETIC MANIPULATION!
FOR THE GOOD OF EARTH AND MAN---
YOU SHALL BE BANISHED!
"SEALED IN A ROCKET, I WAS SENT TO DRIFT IN ENDLESS OUTER-SPACE, WHERE---
SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME--- THOUGHTS GROW DIFFICULT--- AS THOUGH I WERE REGRESSING!
THE HIGH EVOLUTION-ARY USED RADIATION TO BRING ABOUT GENETIC MUTATIONS--
WITHOUT RENEWED DOSAGES, I BEGIN TO REVERT TO MY ORIGINAL STATE!
"THEN CAME THE MIRACLE---
A METEOR STRIKING THE SHIP!
KNOCKING IT OFF COURSE!
"--SETTING IT HURTLING IN A DIRECTION WHICH IN TIME WOULD---
"--PLUNGE IT TO EARTH!"


NOW, DESPITE THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY,* I AM BACK!
AND ONCE I ABSORB ENOUGH RADIATION TO ASSURE THE RETARDATION OF MY MUTATED FORM IS HALTED---
---NO ONE WILL EVER AGAIN DENY ME THIS EARTH!
*TO FIND WHAT HE'S BEEN DOING, SEE MARVEL PREMIERE #1. -- STAN.

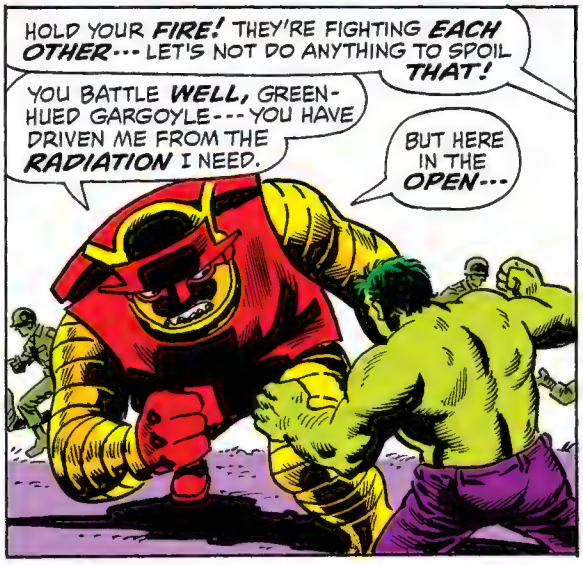
BUT IF THE *INHERITOR* WERE NOT TOTALLY ABSORBED IN THE RADIATION'S EFFECT ON HIS *OWN* BEING, HE MIGHT NOTICE IT DOING SOMETHING CURIOUS TO THE *HUMAN* BEHIND HIM---


YOU PUSHED MACHINERY ON PUNY BANNER--- ALMOST HURT GIRL! SHE WAS NOT JARELLA---
BUT STILL SOMEONE HULK LIKES.
AND YOU TAKE OFFENSE?
THE FEELINGS OF HUMANS ARE NOTHING TO ME--- THOSE OF A SUB-HUMAN BRUTE EVEN LESS!
OH, DAD! IT'S SO UNFAIR--- TO BE SAFE UP HERE KNOWING BRUCE WAS LEFT TRAPPED WITH THAT-- C-CREATURE!
BANNER'S FACED A MULTITUDE OF HELLS AND SURVIVED, BETTY---
WE MUSTN'T COUNT HIM LOST YET.
WE'D BETTER EVACUATE, SIR--- MY MEN REPORT SOME NEW DISTURBANCE ON THAT LEVEL!

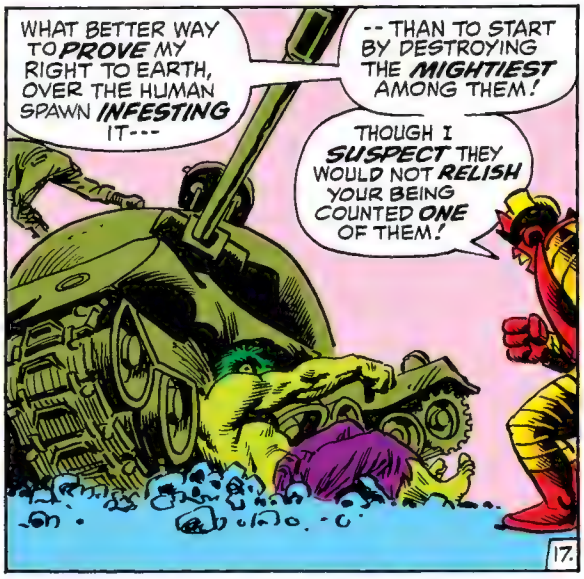

GET READY, MEN---
FROM THE SOUND OF IT, THE HARDBACKED HORROR IS BREAKING OUT!

THIS TIME, HE'S NOT CATCHING US BY SURPRISE!
BUT WITH THAT SHELL-SHEDDING ARMOR HE SPORTS, LORD KNOWS HE DOESN'T HAVE TO!
CAPTAIN! HE'S SMASHING THROUGH THE HELIPAD FLOOR!

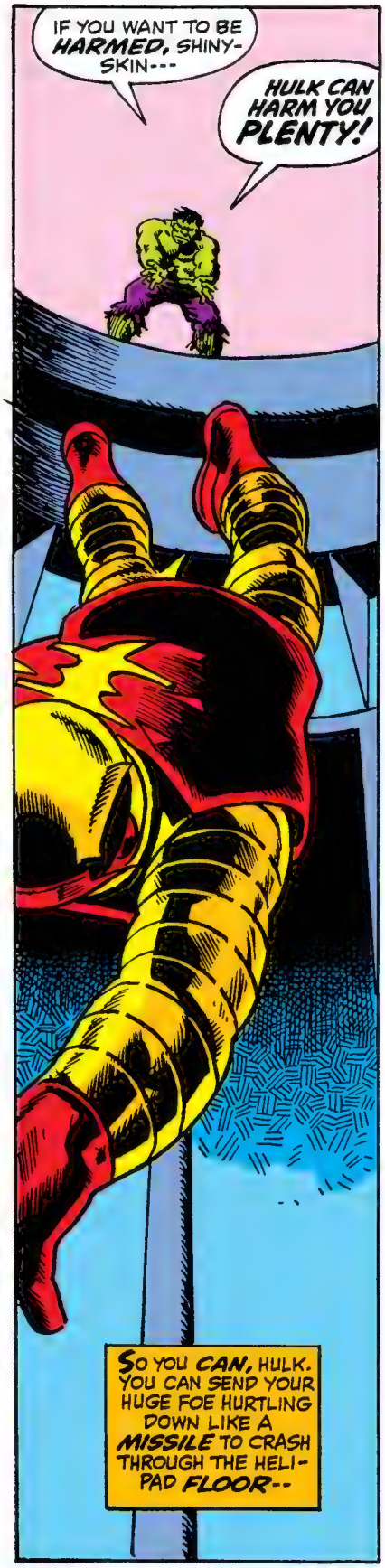
LOOK AT IT! THAT THING'S CLIMBIN THE WALL LIKE SPIDER-MAN!
WELL, THAT SURE AIN'T A PIECE OF WEBBING TRAILIN' AFTER 'IM--- THAT'S THE HULK!
IF THEY'RE TEAMED AGAINST US, WE'D BETTER START SHOOTIN' OR START RUNNIN'!

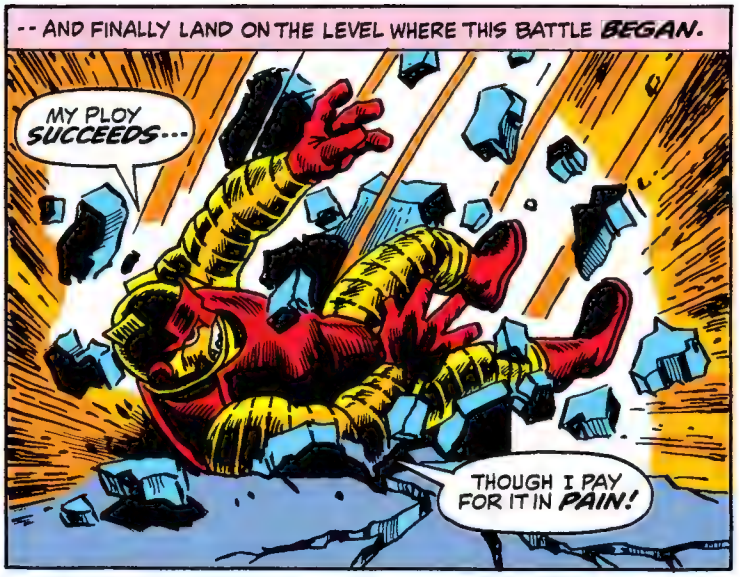

HOLD YOUR FIRE! THEY'RE FIGHTING EACH OTHER--- LET'S NOT DO ANYTHING TO SPOIL THAT!
YOU BATTLE WELL, GREEN-HUED GARGOYLE--- YOU HAVE DRIVEN ME FROM THE RADIATION I NEED.
BUT HERE IN THE OPEN---

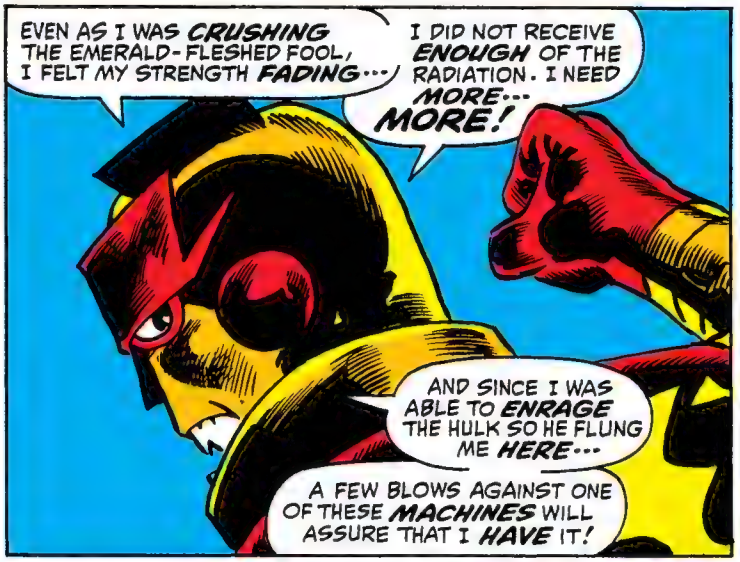
THE INHERITOR HAS ROOM TO MANEUVER HIS GREATER BULK---
--AND STRIKE BACK!

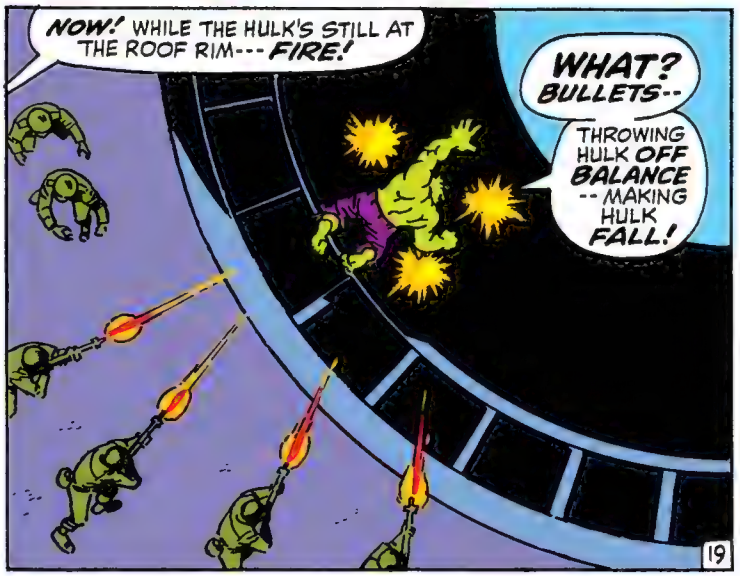

WHAT BETTER WAY TO PROVE MY RIGHT TO EARTH, OVER THE HUMAN SPAWN INFESTING IT---
--THAN TO START BY DESTROYING THE MIGHTIEST AMONG THEM!
THOUGH I SUSPECT THEY WOULD NOT RELISH YOUR BEING COUNTED ONE OF THEM!

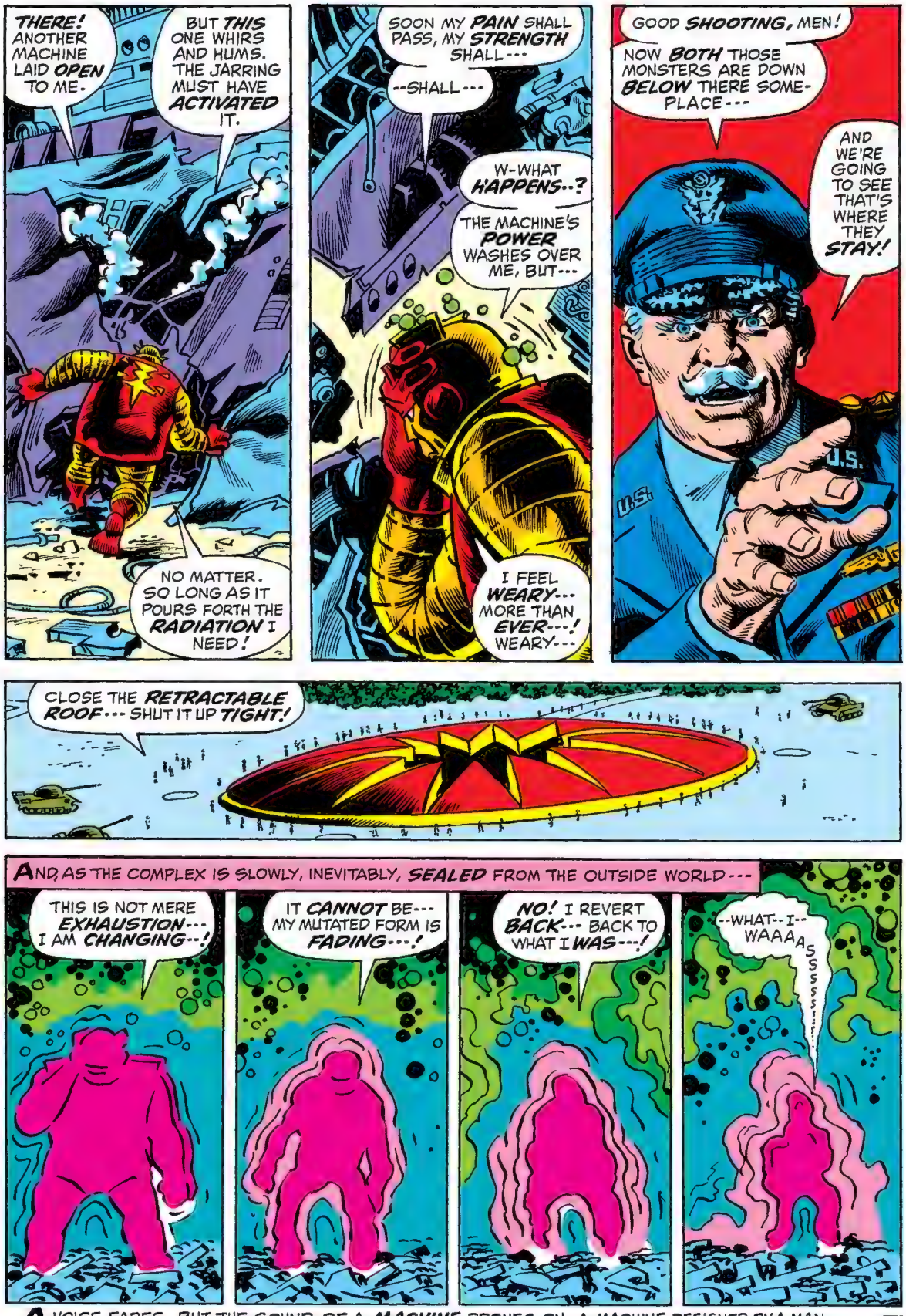
HULK DOESN'T CARE WHAT ANYONE LIKES -- OR THINKS---
LEAST OF ALL --YOU!
THERE, SOLDIERS! SEE HOW HULK SMASHES ENEMIES, NO MATTER HOW BIG, HOW STRONG!
MAYBE NOW YOU'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE TRYING TO CAPTURE HULK AGAIN!
THERE WILL BE NOTHING FOR THEM TO CAPTURE BUT YOUR LIFELESS GREEN FORM!
THE INHERITOR IS NOT SO EASILY SMASHED, BRUTE!
UNGHHH! ARMS LIKE METAL--
SQUEEZING--- CRUSHING HULK TO DEATH---! UNLESS---
HULK REALLY GETS MAD!
BECAUSE THE MADDER HULK GETS---
---THE STRONGER HE GETS!
BA-LOM!
THEN YOUR RAGE IS POINTLESS, SUB-HUMAN---
IT DOES NOT HARM ME!
WHAT?!
TALBOT--HE'S SWINGING THE INHERITOR TOWARD THE RESEARCH COMPLEX--
IF HE DOES WHAT I THINK, IT MAY BE OUR CHANCE!
18


IF YOU WANT TO BE HARMED, SHINY-SKIN---
HULK CAN HARM YOU PLENTY!
SO YOU CAN, HULK. YOU CAN SEND YOUR HUGE FOE HURTLING DOWN LIKE A MISSILE TO CRASH THROUGH THE HELI-PAD FLOOR--


-- AND FINALLY LAND ON THE LEVEL WHERE THIS BATTLE BEGAN.
MY PLOY SUCCEEDS---
THOUGH I PAY FOR IT IN PAIN!


EVEN AS I WAS CRUSHING THE EMERALD-FLESHED FOOL, I FELT MY STRENGTH FADING---
I DID NOT RECEIVE ENOUGH OF THE RADIATION. I NEED MORE--- MORE!
AND SINCE I WAS ABLE TO ENRAGE THE HULK SO HE FLUNG ME HERE---
A FEW BLOWS AGAINST ONE OF THESE MACHINES WILL ASSURE THAT I HAVE IT!


NOW! WHILE THE HULK'S STILL AT THE ROOF RIM--- FIRE!
WHAT? BULLETS--
THROWING HULK OFF BALANCE -- MAKING HULK FALL!


THERE! ANOTHER MACHINE LAID OPEN TO ME.
BUT THIS ONE WHIRS AND HUMS. THE JARRING MUST HAVE ACTIVATED IT.
NO MATTER. SO LONG AS IT POURS FORTH THE RADIATION I NEED!
SOON MY PAIN SHALL PASS, MY STRENGTH SHALL---
--SHALL---
W-WHAT HAPPENS--?
THE MACHINE'S POWER WASHES OVER ME, BUT---
I FEEL WEARY--- MORE THAN EVER---! WEARY---
GOOD SHOOTING, MEN!
NOW BOTH THOSE MONSTERS ARE DOWN BELOW THERE SOMEPLACE---
AND WE'RE GOING TO SEE THAT'S WHERE THEY STAY!
U.S.
U.S.
CLOSE THE RETRACTABLE ROOF--- SHUT IT UP TIGHT!
AND, AS THE COMPLEX IS SLOWLY, INEVITABLY, SEALED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD---
THIS IS NOT MERE EXHAUSTION--- I AM CHANGING--!
IT CANNOT BE--- MY MUTATED FORM IS FADING---!
NO! I REVERT BACK--- BACK TO WHAT I WAS---!
--WHAT--I-- WAAAAASSSSSSS...
A VOICE FADES, BUT THE SOUND OF A MACHINE DRONES ON. A MACHINE DESIGNED BY A MAN NAMED BANNER. A MACHINE DESIGNED TO DRAIN RADIATION---!

INHERITOR!
HULK KNOWS YOU ARE IN HERE--- HULK HEARD YOUR VOICE!
NO MATTER WHAT PUNY MEN ON SURFACE DO---
WE SHALL FINISH OUR BATTLE NOW!
IT IS EMPTY---
BUT HULK HEARD HIM---!
HUH! SOMETHING MOVES ON BROKEN METAL---!
BUT NOTHING THAT CAN HURT HULK---
JUST A LITTLE BUG---
BUT, IT IS INHERITOR HULK WANTS--
--AND WILL KEEP TEARING PLACE UP UNTIL HULK FINDS HIM!
WHAT DOES HULK CARE ABOUT---
A COCK-ROACH?
AND THE HULK CHARGES ON THROUGH THE COMPLEX, SCREAMING FOR AN ENEMY HE CANNOT FIND---
LEAVING BEHIND THE STILL FORM OF A COMMON COCKROACH, IN NO WAY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM A BILLION OTHERS OF THE BREED--- SAVE, PERHAPS, FOR THE MARKINGS ON ITS BACK.
BUT WHO WOULD LOOK SO CLOSELY AT A COMMON COCKROACH?
NEXT: CRY HULK, CRY HAVOK!

INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢ CC
150 APR 02456
THE INCREDIBLE HULK™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BUG OFF, GREENIE--OR THE GIRL GETS IT!
NO!
THE GIRL IS MINE--MINE!!
TRIMPE & SEVERIN
CRY HULK! CRY HAVOK!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK! ™

CRY HULK, CRY HAVOK!

FOR THE HULK, MEMORY IS A FLEETING THING, A WILL O'THE WISP SOMETIMES GRASPED, OFTEN MISSED. NOW HE NO LONGER RECALLS BATTLING THE INHERITOR, SCANT HOURS AGO---*
NOW HE ONLY KNOWS HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE IN THIS UNDERGROUND COMPLEX OF PROJECT GREENSKIN BASE---
--- AND THAT, WHATEVER THE COST, HE'S GOING TO GET OUT!
QUIET AS A TOMB DOWN HERE, GENERAL ROSS.
LOOKS LIKE THOSE MONSTERS MAYBE FINISHED EACH OTHER--

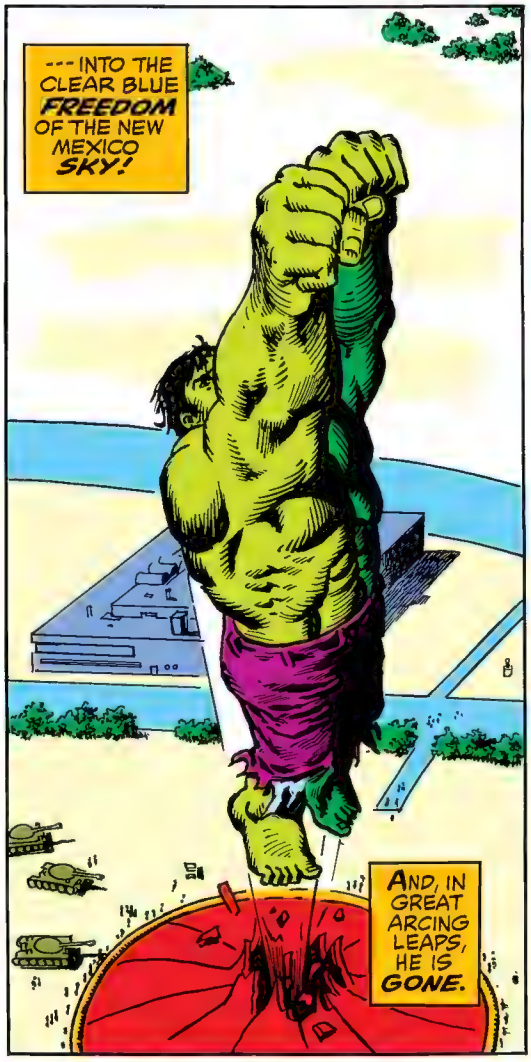
*OR LAST ISSUE, IF YOU AREN'T FUNCTIONING STRICTLY ON MARVEL TIME, AS ARE THE FIVE FEARLESS FRONT-FACERS CREDITED BELOW:

STAN LEE	ARCHIE GOODWIN	HERB TRIMPE & JOHN SEVERIN	SAM ROSEN
EDITOR	WRITER	ARTISTS	LETTERER

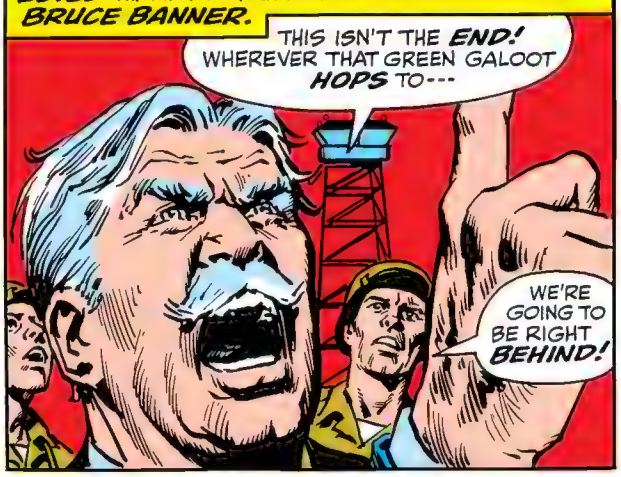
BOTH THOSE MONSTERS ARE PROBABLY STONE-COLD DEAD--
BUT UNTIL WE'RE CERTAIN, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU AND MAJOR TALBOT STAYED ON THE SURFACE, SIR?
AFTER ALL, IF THERE'S DANGER---
SON, I DIDN'T GET THESE STARS BY BEING SOMEWHERE ELSE WHEN THE SPIT HIT THE FAN!
YOU'LL HAVE BETTER THINGS THAN THE MAJOR AND ME TO WORRY ABOUT IF THE HULK OR THAT OTHER---
OTHER? WHAT IS THIS TALK OF ANOTHER?!
THERE IS NO ONE BUT HULK!*
BUT THAT IS ENOUGH, SOLDIERS--
'SPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE IN HULK'S WAY!
BACK! EVERYBODY FALL BACK!
* TRUE, SINCE THE INHERITOR'S RATHER REMARKABLE DEMISE LAST ISH-- STAN
DON PROTECTIVE MASKS---
OPEN UP WITH T-GAS SHELLS---
ON THE DOUBLE!
KA-CHUNG!
THEY'RE SHOOTING FUNNY SMOKE THAT MAKES HULK SLEEP!
WANT TO TRAP HULK, CAGE HIM LIKE BEFORE!
NO..!
2.

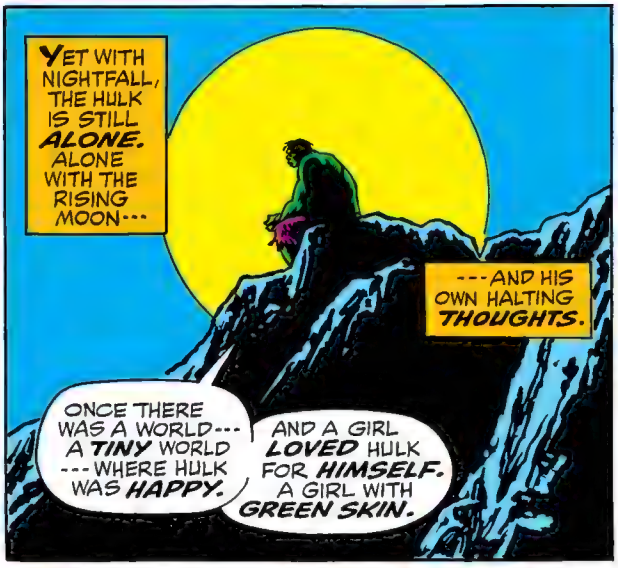
HULK MUST BE FREE!
WHY DOES IT MAKE ONLY HULK SLEEPY?
BUT HOW? CAN'T POUND-- CAN'T FIGHT GAS!
HULK IS BIGGER, STRONGER THAN SOLDIERS, BUT---
HULK DOESN'T HAVE A MASK LIKE THEY DO!
LIKE THIS ONE-- IN FALLEN MAN'S POUCH.
IT IS TOO SMALL. CAN'T PULL IT OVER WHOLE FACE---
BUT IT KEEPS OUT SMELL OF GAS. MAKES HULK FEEL BETTER ALREADY---
FEEL GOOD ENOUGH TO---
WHUM!
-- SMASH THROUGH REST OF PUNY HUMANS!
LIKE THIS!
NOW-- ONLY ONE LEFT, AND---
YOU! HULK KNOWS YOU--
THE ONE WHO ALWAYS LEADS SOLDIERS AFTER HULK!
SHOULD CRUSH YOU LIKE GNAT!
BUT THERE ISN'T TIME!
GAS GETS THICKER-- LEAKS AROUND MASK!
IF HULK IS TO BREAK CLEAR OF THIS PRISON YOU MADE FOR HIM---
IT MUST BE-- NOW!
3.

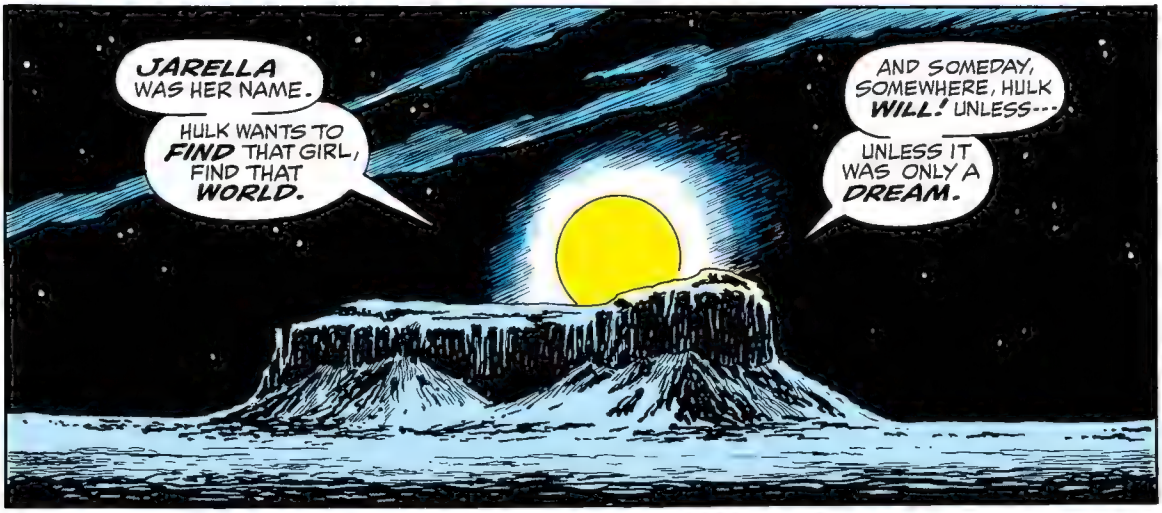
WITH A MIGHTY ***THOOM,*** THE GREEN GOLIATH SOARS ***UPWARD,*** MASSIVE MUSCLES SENDING HIM ***SMASHING*** THROUGH THE COMPLEX'S SEALED RETRACTABLE ROOF---



BUT NOT FORGOTTEN BY THE MAN THAT HASTE LED HIM TO ***SPARE.*** HASTE--- OR PERHAPS SOME DIM FEELING THAT THIS IS THE ***FATHER*** OF THE GIRL WHO ***LOVED*** HIM IN ANOTHER LIFE. THE LIFE OF PHYSICIST ***BRUCE BANNER.***



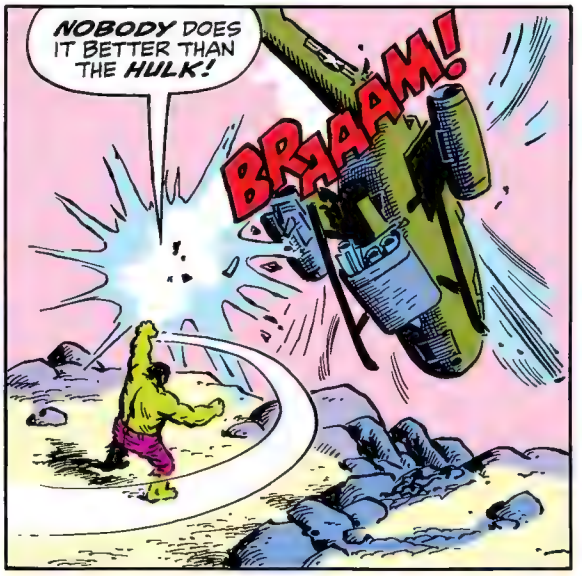

YET WITH NIGHTFALL, THE HULK IS STILL ***ALONE.*** ALONE WITH THE RISING MOON---
---AND HIS OWN HALTING ***THOUGHTS.***
ONCE THERE WAS A WORLD--- A ***TINY*** WORLD --- WHERE HULK WAS ***HAPPY.***
AND A GIRL ***LOVED*** HULK FOR ***HIMSELF.*** A GIRL WITH ***GREEN SKIN.***

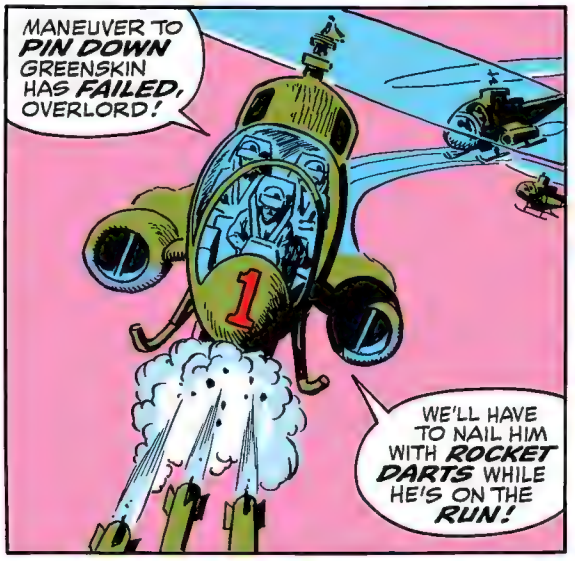

JARELLA WAS HER NAME.
HULK WANTS TO ***FIND*** THAT GIRL, FIND THAT ***WORLD.***
AND SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE, HULK ***WILL!*** UNLESS---
UNLESS IT WAS ONLY A ***DREAM.***

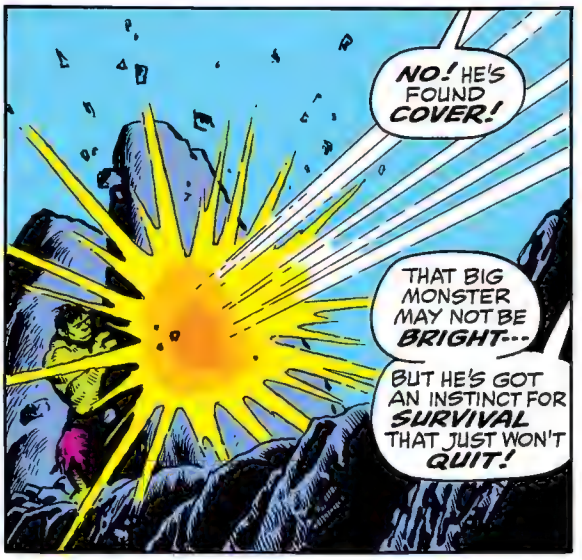
AND IF THE MOON AND THE MONUMENT-LIKE MESAS CANNOT ***REASSURE*** A LONELY FIGURE SPEAKING TO THE NIGHT, AT LEAST IN THEIR ***SILENCE,*** THEY DO NOT FORBID HIM TO ***HOPE.***

BUT WITH DAWN, THAT SILENCE IS BROKEN-- BY THE CLATTER OF APPROACHING HELICOPTERS.
BRAVO FLIGHT TO OVERLORD---
HAVE FIXED WHERE OUR JOLLY GREEN JUMPING JACK CAME TO ROOST!
WIND'S KEPT OUR SOUND FROM HIM-- SO FAR!
MOVE IN FAST! BEFORE CONDITIONS CHANGE!
GROUND SUPPORT IS MOVING UP!
ROGER, OVERLORD.
YOU HEARD THE MAN, BRAVO FLIGHT. LET'S EARN THESE HULK-BUSTER SHOULDER PATCHES!
IT'S SHAPING UP WELL, GENERAL ROSS--- PRACTICALLY A TEXT-BOOK OPERATION.
EXCEPT FOR ONE THING, LIEUTENANT---
THERE ARE NO TEXT-BOOKS COVERING THE HULK!
BUT THERE IS A THICK BLANKET OF GAS--- AS SHELLS FROM THE DIVING HELICOPTERS EXPLODE AROUND THE EMERALD GIANT.
PTHOM!
KRUMP!
THAT OUGHT TO HOLD HIM, GENERAL! IT'S--
IT'S BEING CARRIED AWAY BY THE WIND!
SOLDIERS--- PLANES! ALWAYS AFTER HULK!
HOUNDING, HUNTING--- NEVER LEAVING HULK ALONE!
5.

AND WHEN YOUR SMOKE DOESN'T MAKE HULK SLEEP---
YOU TRY TO SMASH HIM DOWN WITH YOUR MACHINES!
WELL, WHEN IT COMES TO SMASHING--

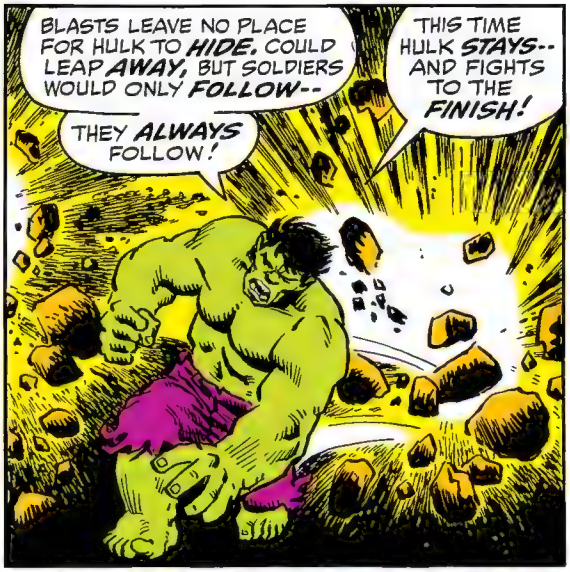

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER THAN THE HULK!
BRAAAM!


MANEUVER TO PIN DOWN GREENSKIN HAS FAILED, OVERLORD!
1
WE'LL HAVE TO NAIL HIM WITH ROCKET DARTS WHILE HE'S ON THE RUN!


NO! HE'S FOUND COVER!
THAT BIG MONSTER MAY NOT BE BRIGHT---
BUT HE'S GOT AN INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL THAT JUST WON'T QUIT!

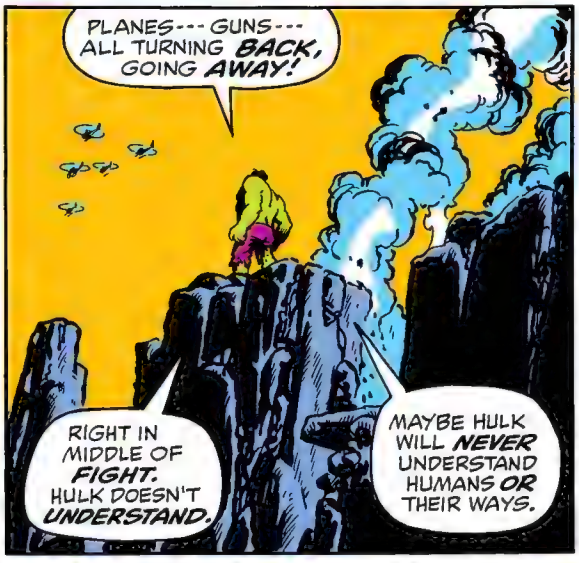
AND THE MORE HE RESISTS, THE LESS THE CHANCE WE CAN TAKE HIM ALIVE!
NOW THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO ORDER UP THE HEAVY STUFF.
HAVE THE SELF-PROPELLED CANNONS OPEN FIRE ON THAT ROCK.
WHEN IT'S GONE, THE CHOPPERS CAN MAKE ANOTHER PASS WITH THE TRANQUILIZER DARTS.

IF HE SURVIVES!
KA-BOW! BOM!

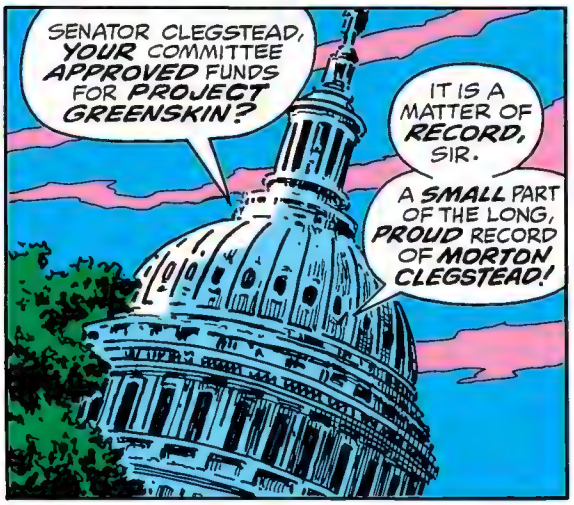

BLASTS LEAVE NO PLACE FOR HULK TO HIDE. COULD LEAP AWAY, BUT SOLDIERS WOULD ONLY FOLLOW--
THEY ALWAYS FOLLOW!
THIS TIME HULK STAYS-- AND FIGHTS TO THE FINISH!

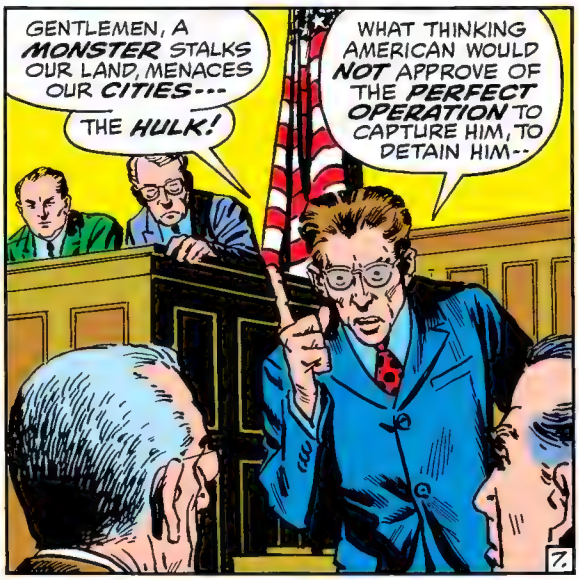
GENERAL ROSS, IT'S GREENSKIN BASE.
THEY SAY ORDERS HAVE JUST COME FROM WASHINGTON.
"ALL HULK-BUSTER ACTIVITIES TO BE SUS-PENDED---
"--PENDING CONGRESSIONAL HEARING!"

"YOU ARE TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE CAPITOL TO TESTIFY!"
SIR, WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
DO? LIEUTENANT, THAT WAS AN ORDER ---GENERALS OBEY THEM LIKE ANYONE ELSE.
THOUGH SOME-TIMES IT COMES A BIT HARDER!

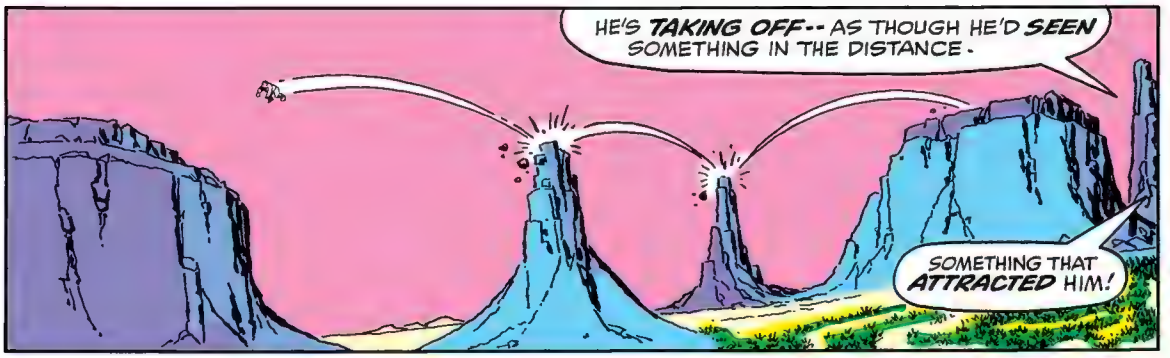

PLANES--- GUNS--- ALL TURNING BACK, GOING AWAY!
RIGHT IN MIDDLE OF FIGHT. HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.
MAYBE HULK WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND HUMANS OR THEIR WAYS.

AND NOT ONE BIT LESS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO THE GREEN-HUED HERCULES WOULD BE THIS SCENE IN OUR NATION'S CAPITOL---

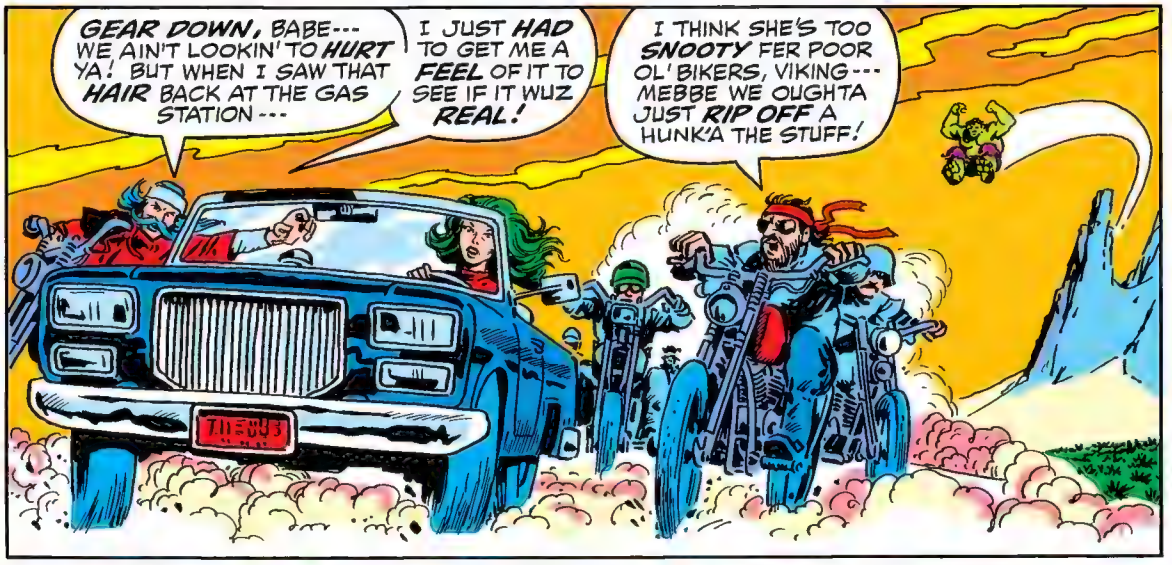

SENATOR CLEGSTEAD, YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED FUNDS FOR PROJECT GREENSKIN?
IT IS A MATTER OF RECORD, SIR.
A SMALL PART OF THE LONG, PROUD RECORD OF MORTON CLEGSTEAD!

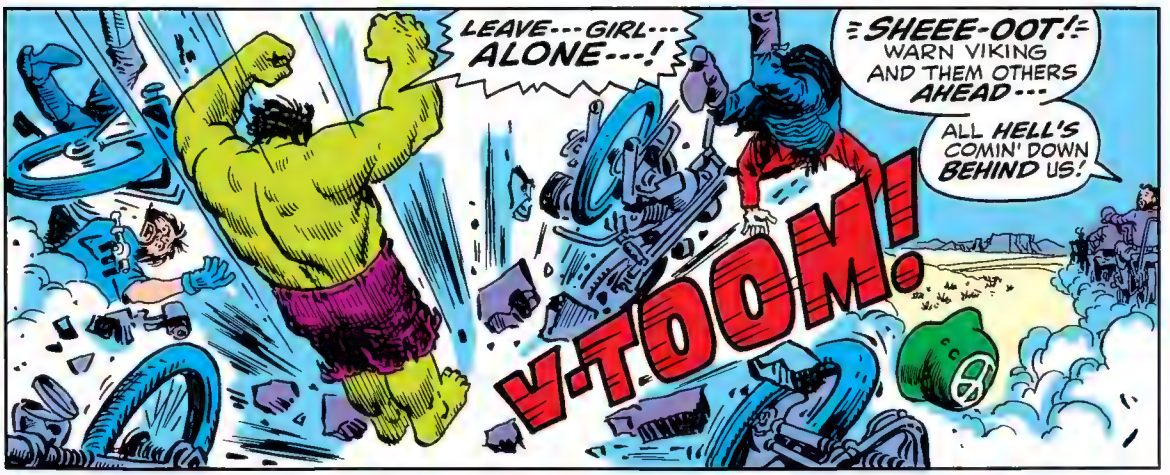

GENTLEMEN, A MONSTER STALKS OUR LAND, MENACES OUR CITIES---
THE HULK!
WHAT THINKING AMERICAN WOULD NOT APPROVE OF THE PERFECT OPERATION TO CAPTURE HIM, TO DETAIN HIM--

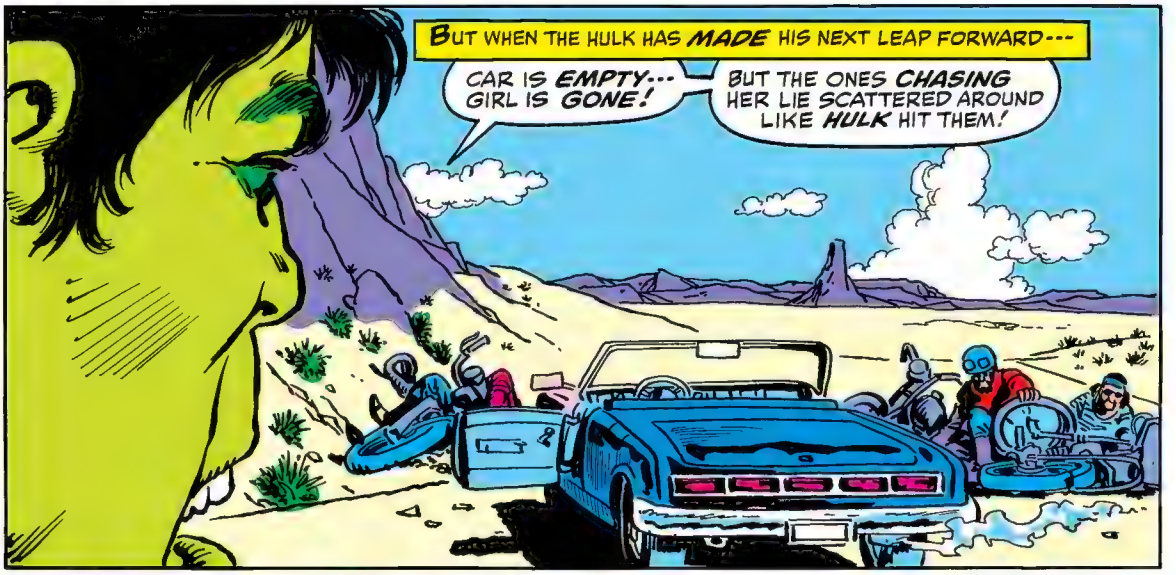
--AND, WHEN NECESSARY, DESTROY HIM!
YET, THE FIRST TIME THE HULK WAS DETAINED IN THIS "PERFECT OPERATION"--
HE ESCAPED, SENATOR--- AND RIPPED THE PLACE TO SHREDS!
THAT'S WHY THIS HEARING ON PROJECT GREEN-SKIN IS BEING HELD.
MILLIONS WERE SPENT ON THAT BASE--- MONEY THAT COULD HAVE GONE TO HOUSING, TO POVERTY PROGRAMS--
--TO CLEANSE OUR FOULED ENVIRONMENT!
MILLIONS SQUANDERED ON A PROJECT THAT APPARENTLY CAN'T EVEN DO THE JOB.
IS RHETORIC THE SOLE WEAPON OF YOUR ARSENAL, CONGRESSMAN?
FOR A FIRST-TERM REPRESENTATIVE, ROGER DUTTON COMES ON STRONG--- BUT AGAINST AN OLD PRO LIKE CLEGSTEAD, HE'S OVERMATCHED.
STILL, MORT HAS BEEN OVER-DOING THIS "GREEN MENACE" BIT.
PARTICULARLY SINCE UNTIL LAST YEAR, HE BARELY KNEW WHO THE HULK WAS!
THERE'LL BE MORE CAPITOL HILL CAPERS IN THE FUTURE, BUT LET'S RETURN NOW TO THE DESERT---
WHERE, DESPITE THE ORDERS OF GENERAL ROSS, ONE VEHICLE HASN'T DEPARTED---
PLEASE, GLEN--- CAN'T WE GET CLOSER?
BETTY, YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE MY OAK LEAVES AND MY HIDE IF HE EVEN SUSPECTED I BROUGHT YOU OUT HERE.
BUT IF THE HULK CHANGES BACK TO BRUCE, HE MAY NEED ME!
ONLY THAT NOTHING'S CHANGED--- THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS LIKE ME, AND LOVE BANNER.
CAN'T YOU SEE ANYTHING?
NO, HE'S JUST SITTING AND---
WAIT!
8.



SO HE HAS, MAJOR TALBOT--- A FLASH OF FLOWING GREEN. THE TRESSES OF A GIRL IN DANGER. AND WHO CAN BLAME HIM IF IT SEEMS THIS MIGHT WELL BE HIS LOST LOVE, JARELLA?

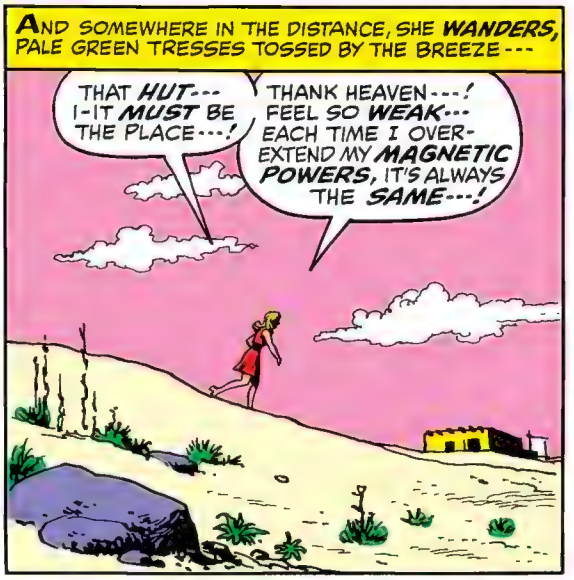

GEAR DOWN, BABE--- WE AIN'T LOOKIN' TO HURT YA! BUT WHEN I SAW THAT HAIR BACK AT THE GAS STATION ---
I JUST HAD TO GET ME A FEEL OF IT TO SEE IF IT WUZ REAL!
I THINK SHE'S TOO SNOOTY FER POOR OL' BIKERS, VIKING --- MEBBE WE OUGHTA JUST RIP OFF A HUNK'A THE STUFF!



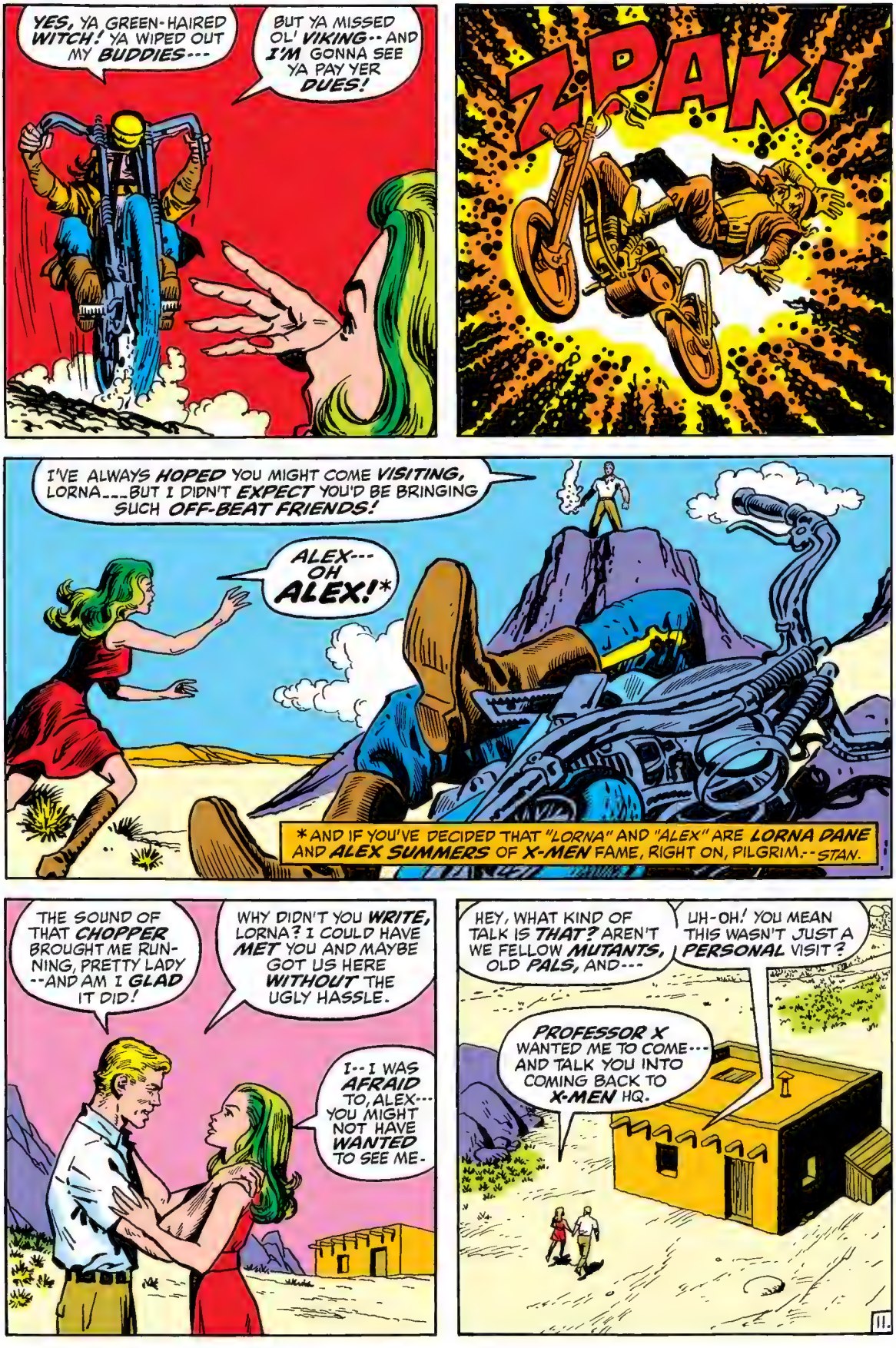

BUT WHEN THE HULK HAS MADE HIS NEXT LEAP FORWARD---
CAR IS EMPTY--- GIRL IS GONE!
BUT THE ONES CHASING HER LIE SCATTERED AROUND LIKE HULK HIT THEM!

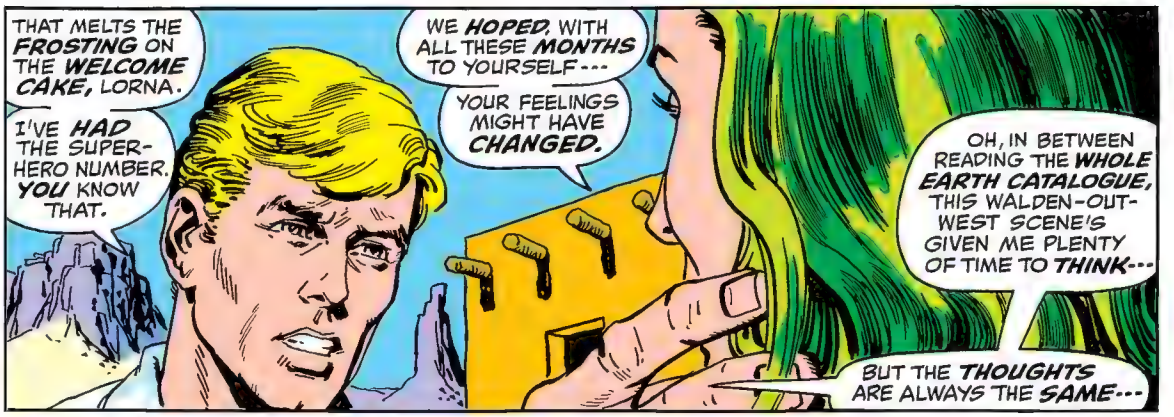
YOU! YOU ARE STILL AWAKE. TELL HULK WHAT HAPPENED!
CAN'T BELIEVE IT--- GREEN-HAIRED CHICK STOPPED CAR--- JUST POINTED HER HANDS AT US---

LIKE HITTIN' A STONE WALL-- BIKES FLEW EVERYWAY BUT STRAIGHT---!
JUST CAN'T BELIEEEEEEEVE IIIIIT!
GO SLEEP! WORDS MAKE NO SENSE TO HULK!
ALL HULK REALLY WANTS IS THE GIRL---
WHERE IS GIRL?!


AND SOMEWHERE IN THE DISTANCE, SHE WANDERS, PALE GREEN TRESSES TOSSED BY THE BREEZE---
THAT HUT--- I-IT MUST BE THE PLACE---!
THANK HEAVEN---! FEEL SO WEAK--- EACH TIME I OVER-EXTEND MY MAGNETIC POWERS, IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME---!

AT LEAST ALL OF THAT MOB OF CYCLISTS DIDN'T KEEP UP THE CHASE---
I COULDN'T HAVE HANDLED MORE THAN THOSE FEW, AND---
THAT NOISE--- N-NO!


YES, YA GREEN-HAIRED WITCH! YA WIPED OUT MY BUDDIES---
BUT YA MISSED OL' VIKING--AND I'M GONNA SEE YA PAY YER DUES!
ZPAK!
I'VE ALWAYS HOPED YOU MIGHT COME VISITING, LORNA---BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU'D BE BRINGING SUCH OFF-BEAT FRIENDS!
ALEX--- OH ALEX!*
*AND IF YOU'VE DECIDED THAT "LORNA" AND "ALEX" ARE LORNA DANE AND ALEX SUMMERS OF X-MEN FAME, RIGHT ON, PILGRIM.--STAN.
THE SOUND OF THAT CHOPPER BROUGHT ME RUNNING, PRETTY LADY --AND AM I GLAD IT DID!
WHY DIDN'T YOU WRITE, LORNA? I COULD HAVE MET YOU AND MAYBE GOT US HERE WITHOUT THE UGLY HASSLE.
I--I WAS AFRAID TO, ALEX--- YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE WANTED TO SEE ME-
HEY, WHAT KIND OF TALK IS THAT? AREN'T WE FELLOW MUTANTS, OLD PALS, AND---
UH-OH! YOU MEAN THIS WASN'T JUST A PERSONAL VISIT?
PROFESSOR X WANTED ME TO COME--- AND TALK YOU INTO COMING BACK TO X-MEN HQ.
11.


THAT MELTS THE FROSTING ON THE WELCOME CAKE, LORNA.
I'VE HAD THE SUPER-HERO NUMBER. YOU KNOW THAT.
WE HOPED, WITH ALL THESE MONTHS TO YOURSELF---
YOUR FEELINGS MIGHT HAVE CHANGED.
OH, IN BETWEEN READING THE WHOLE EARTH CATALOGUE, THIS WALDEN-OUT-WEST SCENE'S GIVEN ME PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK---
BUT THE THOUGHTS ARE ALWAYS THE SAME---

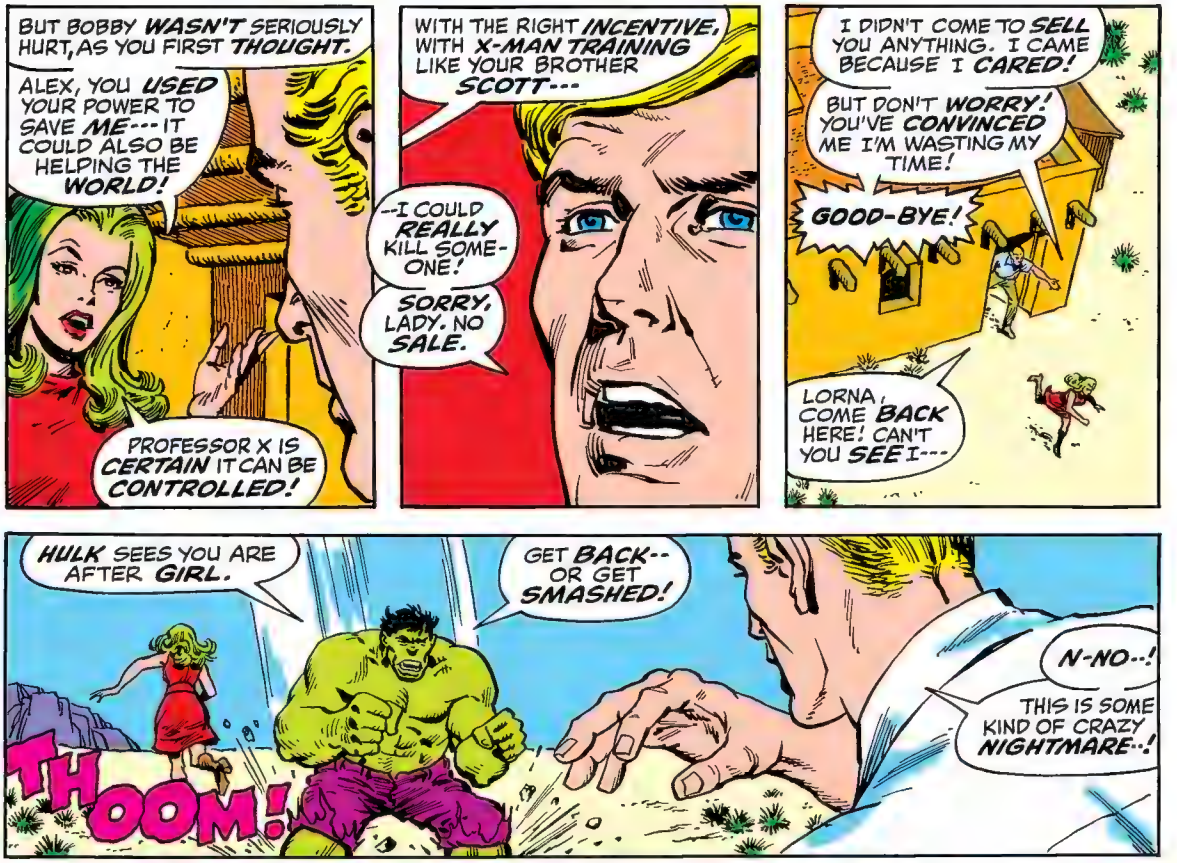
"--- OF THE DAY I ALMOST KILLED BOBBY DRAKE QUARRELING OVER YOU, LORNA!

SUMMERS, I'M GETTING TIRED OF LOOKING FOR LORNA---AND ALWAYS FINDING YOU.
THE LADY'S GOT A MIND OF HER OWN, SONNY. WHEN IT COMES TO WHOM SHE SEES, IT'S STILL OPEN---
LIKE YOUR MOUTH!
BOTH OF YOU--- STOP! DO YOU HEAR ME?

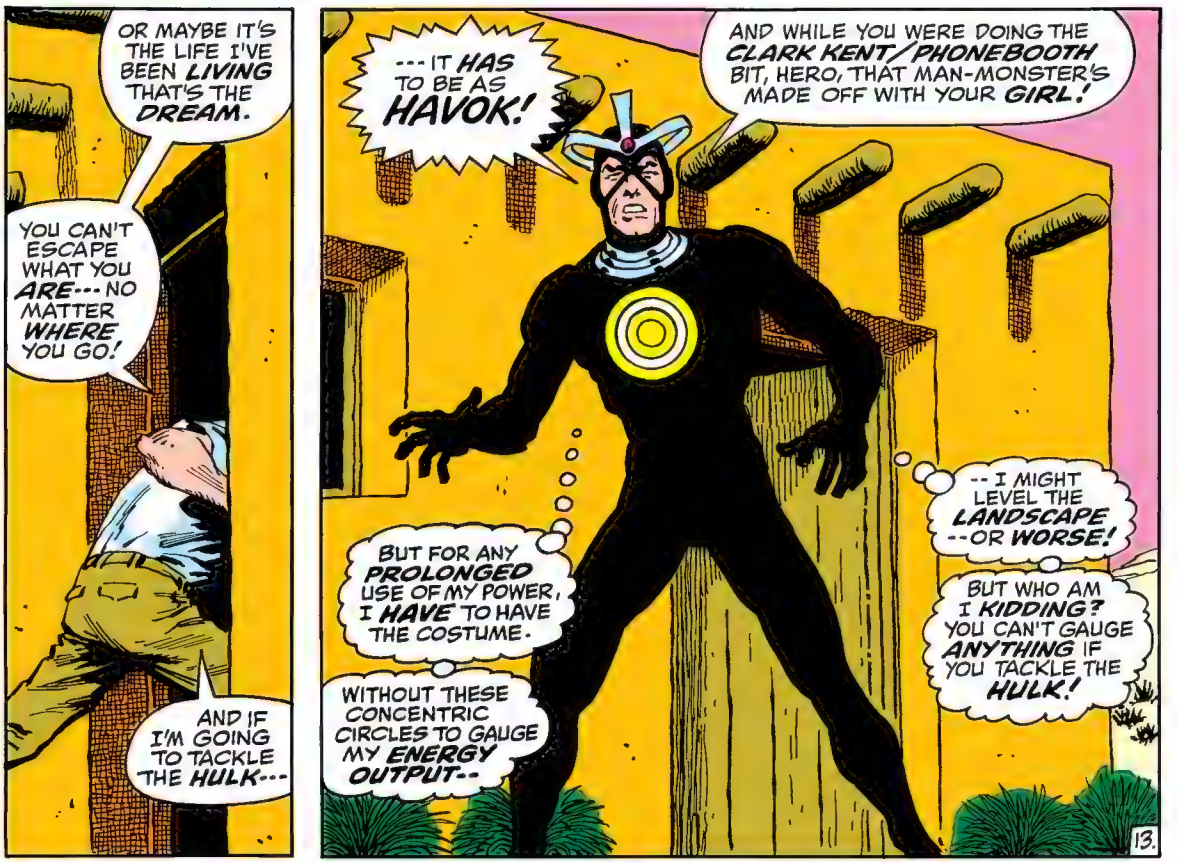
"WE DIDN'T. WE DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING BUT OUR OWN BOILING POINTS BURSTING---

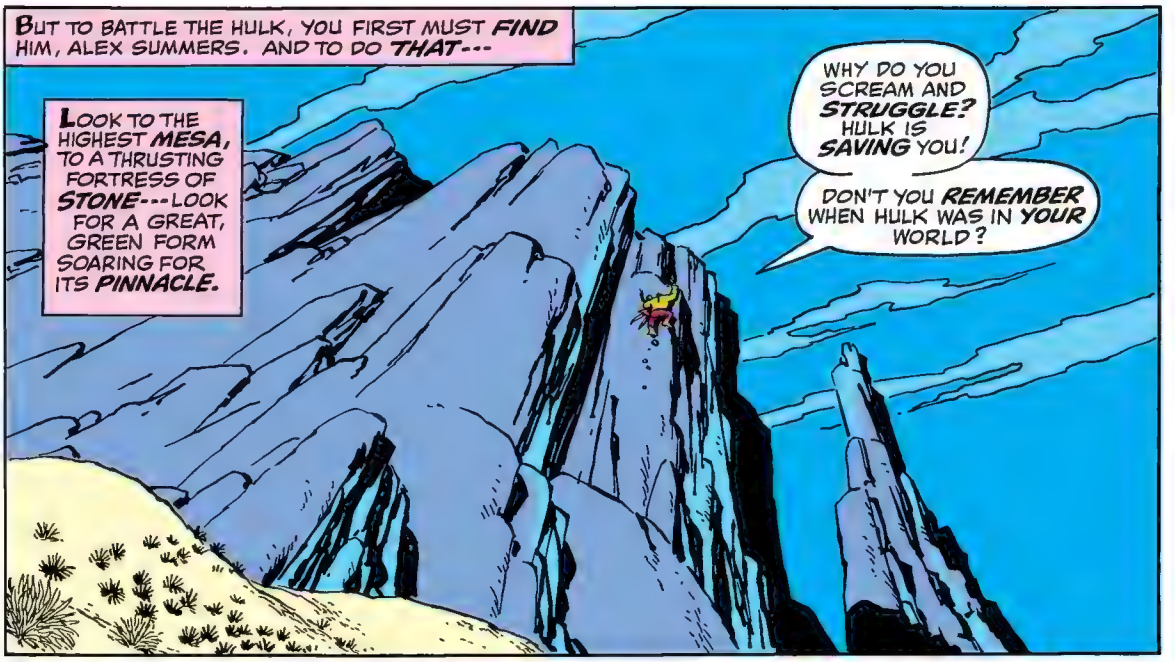
"THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER IS DRAKE JUST LYING THERE--- STILL. STILL AS DEATH.

OH, LORD. I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THIS--- I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
WHY DO I HAVE SUCH A POWER? CAN'T USE IT--DON'T WANT IT!
"AND RIGHT THEN, ALEX SUMMERS BECAME A SUPERHERO DROPOUT!

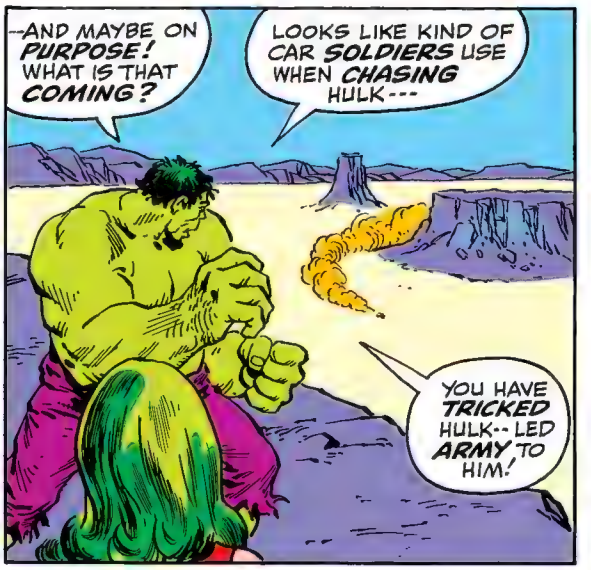

BUT BOBBY WASN'T SERIOUSLY HURT, AS YOU FIRST THOUGHT.
ALEX, YOU USED YOUR POWER TO SAVE ME--- IT COULD ALSO BE HELPING THE WORLD!
PROFESSOR X IS CERTAIN IT CAN BE CONTROLLED!
WITH THE RIGHT INCENTIVE, WITH X-MAN TRAINING LIKE YOUR BROTHER SCOTT---
--I COULD REALLY KILL SOMEONE!
SORRY, LADY. NO SALE.
I DIDN'T COME TO SELL YOU ANYTHING. I CAME BECAUSE I CARED!
BUT DON'T WORRY! YOU'VE CONVINCED ME I'M WASTING MY TIME!
GOOD-BYE!
LORNA, COME BACK HERE! CAN'T YOU SEE I---

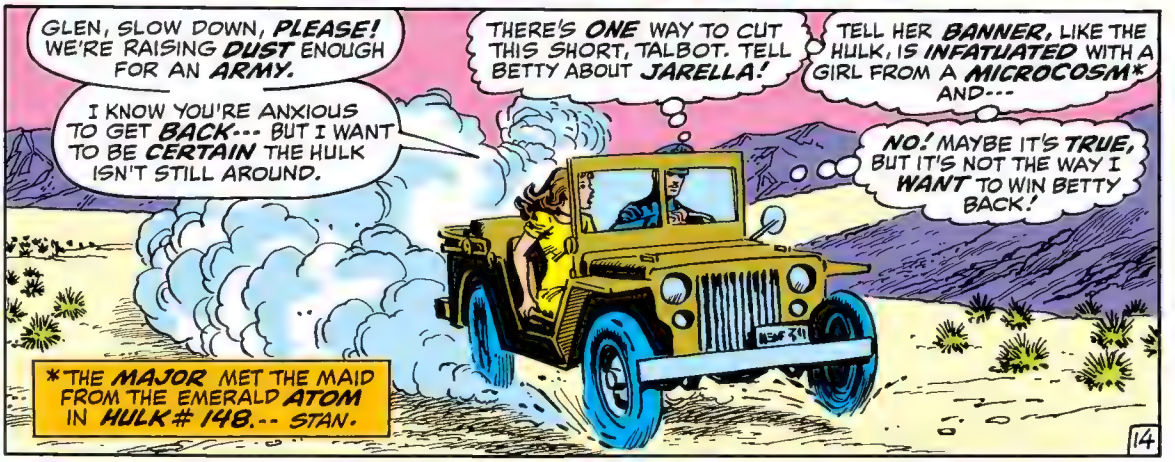
HULK SEES YOU ARE AFTER GIRL.
GET BACK-- OR GET SMASHED!
THOOM!
N-NO--!
THIS IS SOME KIND OF CRAZY NIGHTMARE--!


OR MAYBE IT'S THE LIFE I'VE BEEN LIVING THAT'S THE DREAM.
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE WHAT YOU ARE--- NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO!
AND IF I'M GOING TO TACKLE THE HULK---
--- IT HAS TO BE AS HAVOK!
AND WHILE YOU WERE DOING THE CLARK KENT/PHONEBOOTH BIT, HERO, THAT MAN-MONSTER'S MADE OFF WITH YOUR GIRL!
BUT FOR ANY PROLONGED USE OF MY POWER, I HAVE TO HAVE THE COSTUME.
WITHOUT THESE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES TO GAUGE MY ENERGY OUTPUT--
-- I MIGHT LEVEL THE LANDSCAPE --OR WORSE!
BUT WHO AM I KIDDING? YOU CAN'T GAUGE ANYTHING IF YOU TACKLE THE HULK!

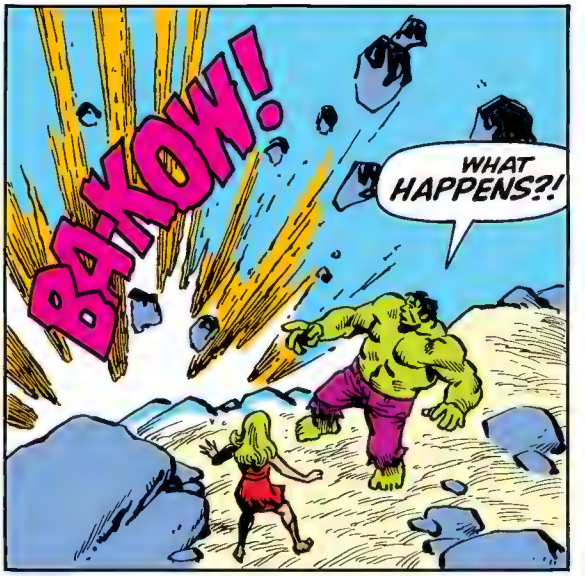

BUT TO BATTLE THE HULK, YOU FIRST MUST FIND HIM, ALEX SUMMERS. AND TO DO THAT---
LOOK TO THE HIGHEST MESA, TO A THRUSTING FORTRESS OF STONE---LOOK FOR A GREAT, GREEN FORM SOARING FOR ITS PINNACLE.
WHY DO YOU SCREAM AND STRUGGLE? HULK IS SAVING YOU!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHEN HULK WAS IN YOUR WORLD?

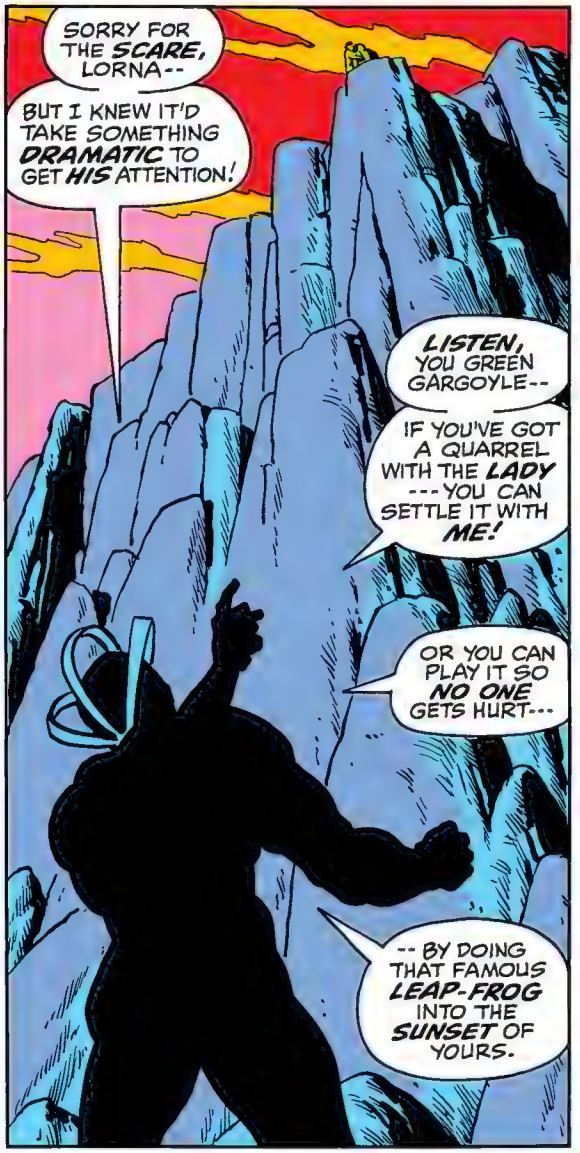
ONLY ATOP THIS GIANT AERIE DOES THE HULK LOOK WELL AT THE MUTANT GIRL---


--AND MAYBE ON PURPOSE! WHAT IS THAT COMING?
LOOKS LIKE KIND OF CAR SOLDIERS USE WHEN CHASING HULK---
YOU HAVE TRICKED HULK--LED ARMY TO HIM!

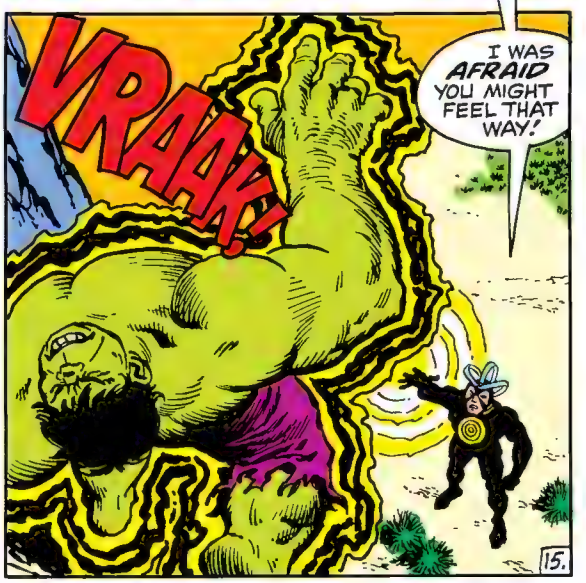

GLEN, SLOW DOWN, PLEASE! WE'RE RAISING DUST ENOUGH FOR AN ARMY.
I KNOW YOU'RE ANXIOUS TO GET BACK--- BUT I WANT TO BE CERTAIN THE HULK ISN'T STILL AROUND.
THERE'S ONE WAY TO CUT THIS SHORT, TALBOT. TELL BETTY ABOUT JARELLA!
TELL HER BANNER, LIKE THE HULK, IS INFATUATED WITH A GIRL FROM A MICROCOSM* AND---
NO! MAYBE IT'S TRUE, BUT IT'S NOT THE WAY I WANT TO WIN BETTY BACK!
*THE MAJOR MET THE MAID FROM THE EMERALD ATOM IN HULK # 148.-- STAN.

BUT FROM TALBOT'S MENTAL STRUGGLE, WE MOVE TO A VERY REAL AND-- FOR LORNA DANE-- FUTILE ONE!
HULK, YOU'RE WRONG-- THIS IS SOME KIND OF MISTAKE!
AND YOU HAVE MADE IT! NO ONE FOOLS HULK!


BA-KOW!
WHAT HAPPENS?!


SORRY FOR THE SCARE, LORNA--
BUT I KNEW IT'D TAKE SOMETHING DRAMATIC TO GET HIS ATTENTION!
LISTEN, YOU GREEN GARGOYLE--
IF YOU'VE GOT A QUARREL WITH THE LADY --- YOU CAN SETTLE IT WITH ME!
OR YOU CAN PLAY IT SO NO ONE GETS HURT---
-- BY DOING THAT FAMOUS LEAP-FROG INTO THE SUNSET OF YOURS.

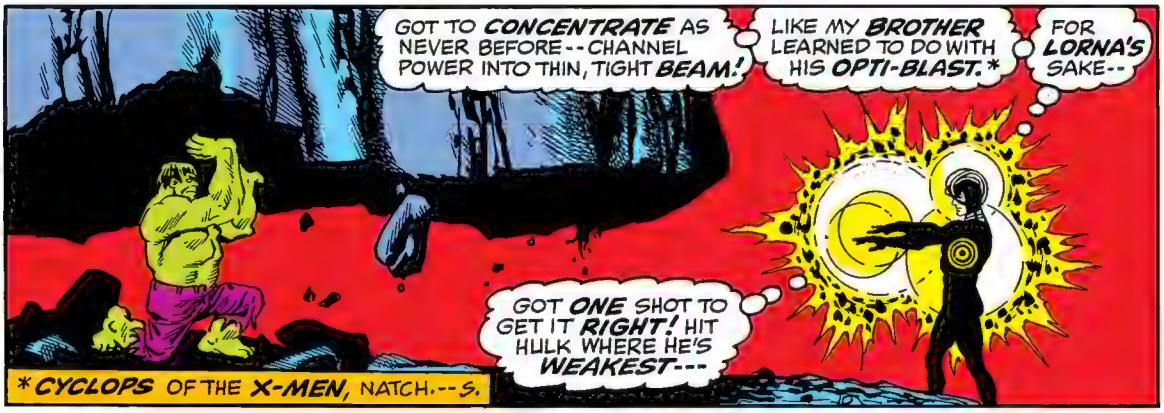
ONLY LEAPING HULK WILL DO--
--IS AT LITTLE BUG IN BLACK SUIT!
YEAH...


VRAAK!
I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT FEEL THAT WAY!
15.

HE CAN'T BE PICKING HIMSELF UP AFTER THAT--- HE CAN'T!
YOU HAVE-- MUCH POWER.
BUT SO DOES HULK!
ENOUGH TO RIP GROUND OUT FROM UNDER YOU!
WRRUUM!
ENOUGH TO GRAB YOU AND WAD YOU UP LIKE LITTLE BALL!
I BELIEVE IT--!
ESPECIALLY IF THAT KING-SIZED MITT MANAGES TO CLAMP ON MY FREE HAND!
BUT IF IT DOESN'T---
ZRRAK!
HULK, I DRAW UNLIMITED POWER FROM THE COSMIC RAYS AROUND US--- SO MUCH THAT IT SCARES ME!
YOU CAN'T KEEP MATCHING IT--- WE'LL DESTROY EACH OTHER--AND OURSELVES!
WHY NOT QUIT NOW--- GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS?
QUIT---?

HULK HAS ONLY BEGUN!
ONLY..
BEGUN!
RRRRRRRRRAAA

YOU'VE GOT A POWER LIKE NOBODY EVER HAD, ALEX SUMMERS--- AND IT'S WORTH-LESS!
ALL IT'S GOOD FOR IS TO DESTROY. YOU CAN'T USE IT TO SAVE LORNA!
BLAST THE HULK OR THAT ROCK-- AND SHE FALLS, TOO!
BUT I CAN'T JUST STAND HERE BEATING MY GUMS WHILE HE LIFTS THAT HUNK OF MESA AND THROWS IT---
--OR LETS IT CRUMBLE APART IN HIS HANDS TRYING!
LORNA WILL DIE UNLESS THE HULK SETS THAT THING DOWN---
AND GENTLY. OH, LORD, GENTLY!
HOW DOES YOUR GREAT POWER MAKE HIM DO THAT, HAVOK--
HOW?
NOW, BLACKSUIT--- NOW YOU SEE HOW CLOSE HULK IS TO QUITTING---
--WHEN HE HITS YOU WITH MOUNTAIN!
ACCORDING TO LORNA, PROFESSOR X THINKS MY POWER CAN BE MASTERED---
"-- WITH PROPER INCENTIVE AND TRAINING!"
WELL, THE INCENTIVE IS SAVING THE GIRL I LOVE!
AS FOR TRAINING-- IT'S GOT TO BE ON THE JOB!
18

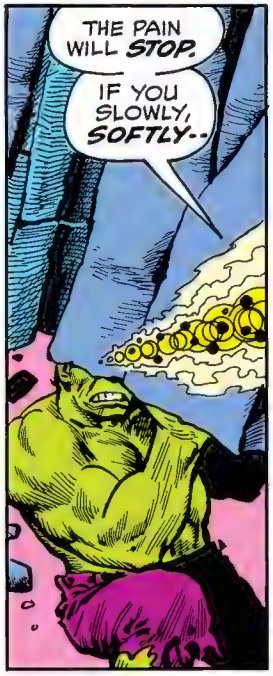

GOT TO CONCENTRATE AS NEVER BEFORE--CHANNEL POWER INTO THIN, TIGHT BEAM!
LIKE MY BROTHER LEARNED TO DO WITH HIS OPTI-BLAST.*
FOR LORNA'S SAKE--
GOT ONE SHOT TO GET IT RIGHT! HIT HULK WHERE HE'S WEAKEST---
*CYCLOPS OF THE X-MEN, NATCH.--S.

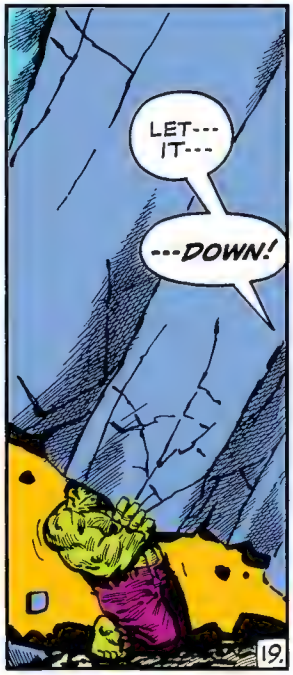
---HIS MIND!
AAARGH!
PAIN--BURNING--IN HULK'S HEAD!

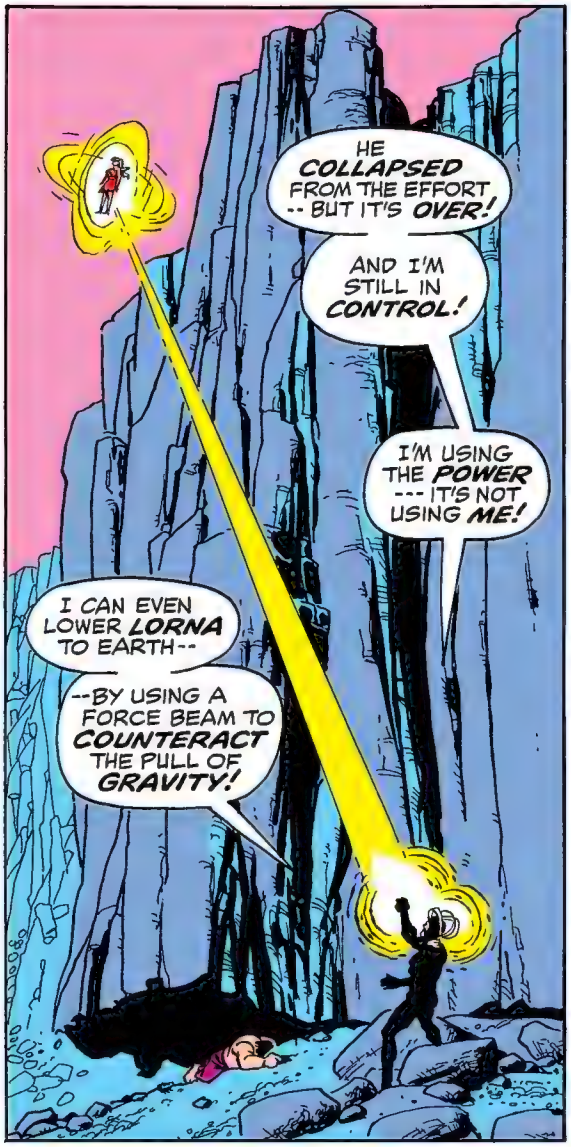
WHAT IS IT?!
NOTHING EVER HURT HULK LIKE THIS!
HULK! YOU CAN STOP IT--
--JUST LOWER THE ROCK!

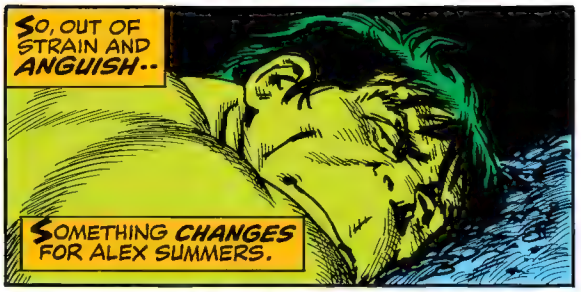
STRAIN OF THIS--IS TEARING AT ME--
--LIKE PAIN--AT HIM!
BUT MUSTN'T LET UP---FOR LORNA!

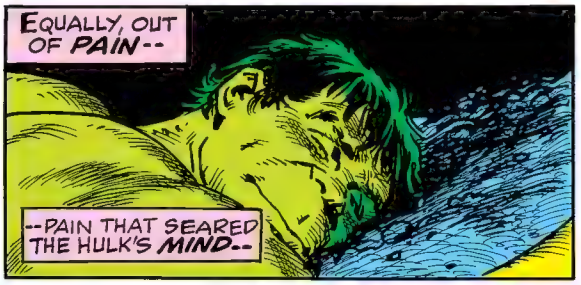
LOWER THE ROCK, HULK!
LOWER IT!

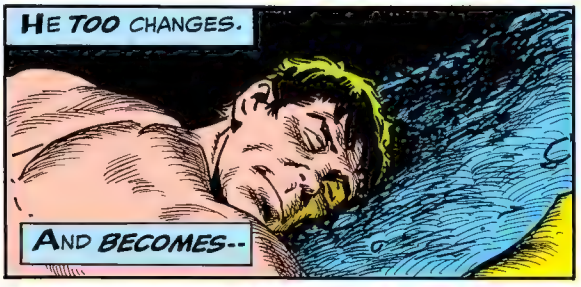

THE PAIN WILL STOP.
IF YOU SLOWLY, SOFTLY--

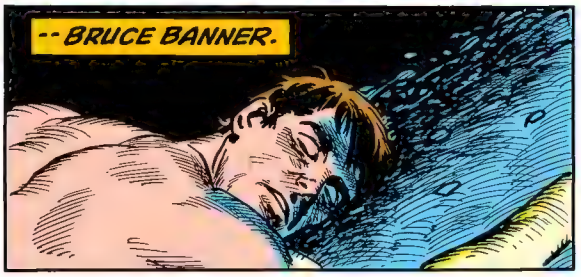

LET---IT---
---DOWN!

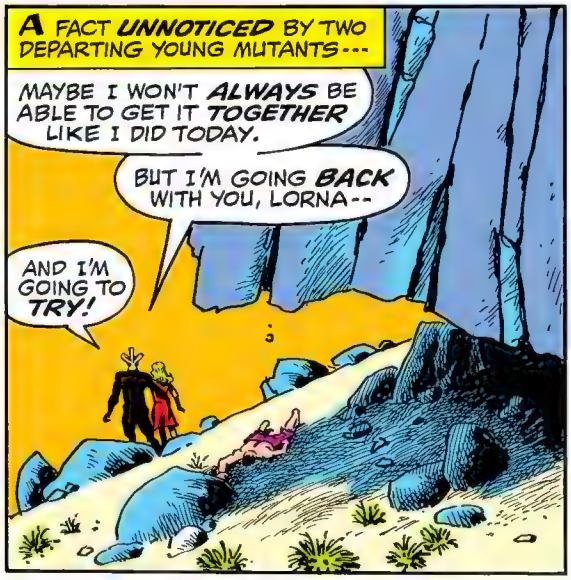

HE COLLAPSED FROM THE EFFORT -- BUT IT'S OVER!
AND I'M STILL IN CONTROL!
I'M USING THE POWER --- IT'S NOT USING ME!
I CAN EVEN LOWER LORNA TO EARTH--
--BY USING A FORCE BEAM TO COUNTERACT THE PULL OF GRAVITY!



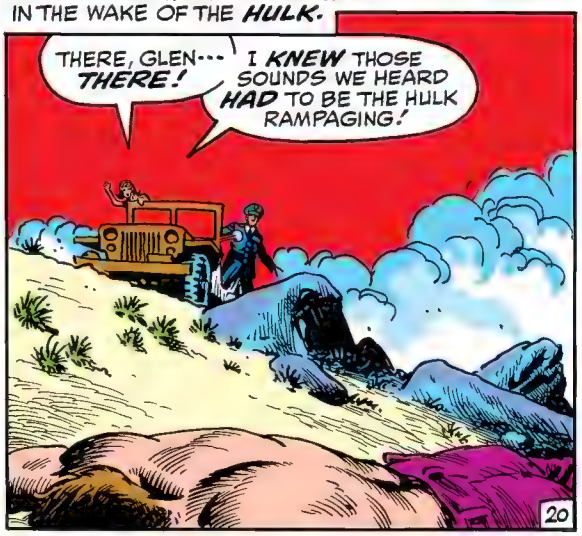




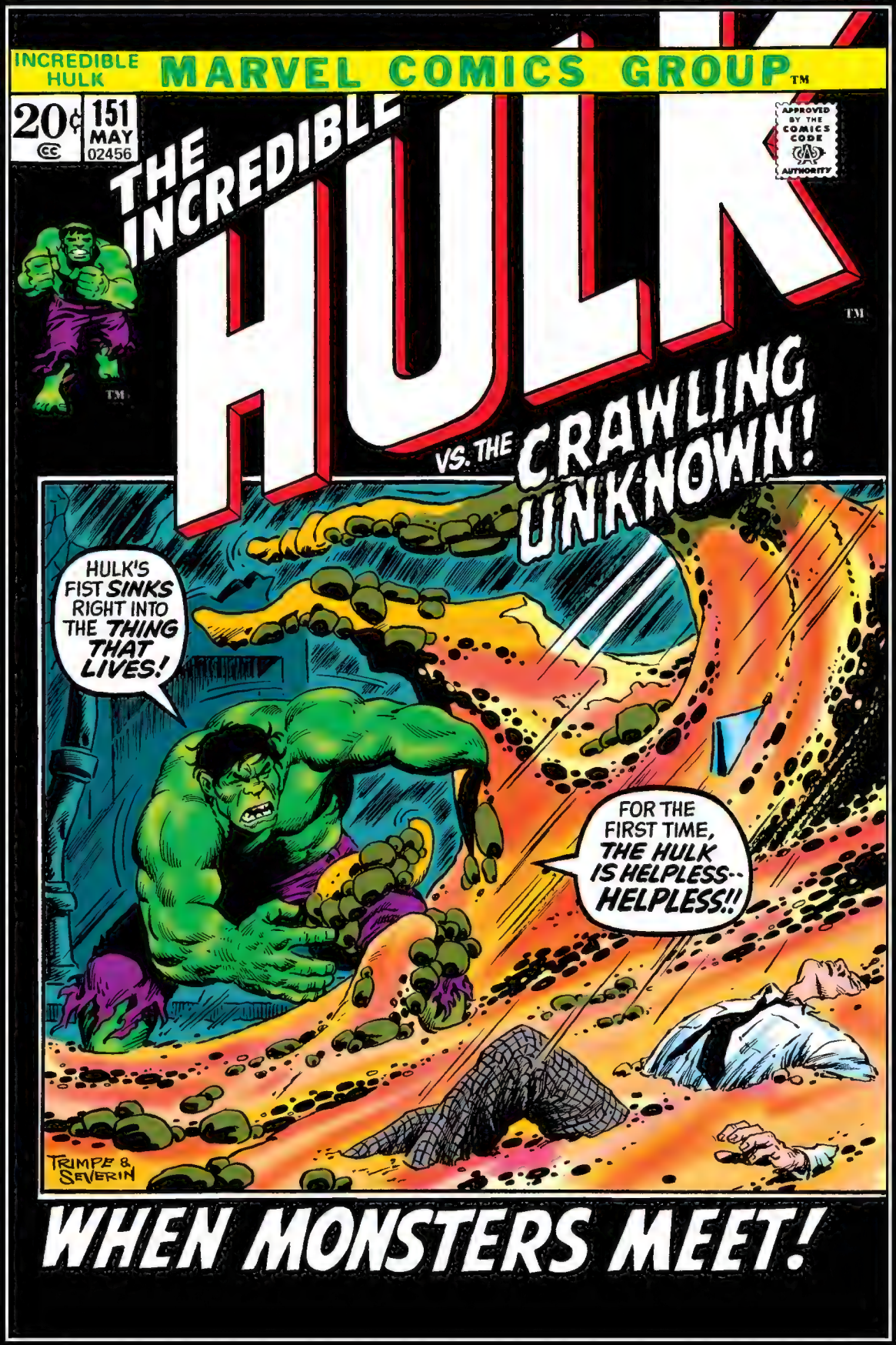



A FACT UNNOTICED BY TWO DEPARTING YOUNG MUTANTS---
MAYBE I WON'T ALWAYS BE ABLE TO GET IT TOGETHER LIKE I DID TODAY.
BUT I'M GOING BACK WITH YOU, LORNA--
AND I'M GOING TO TRY!

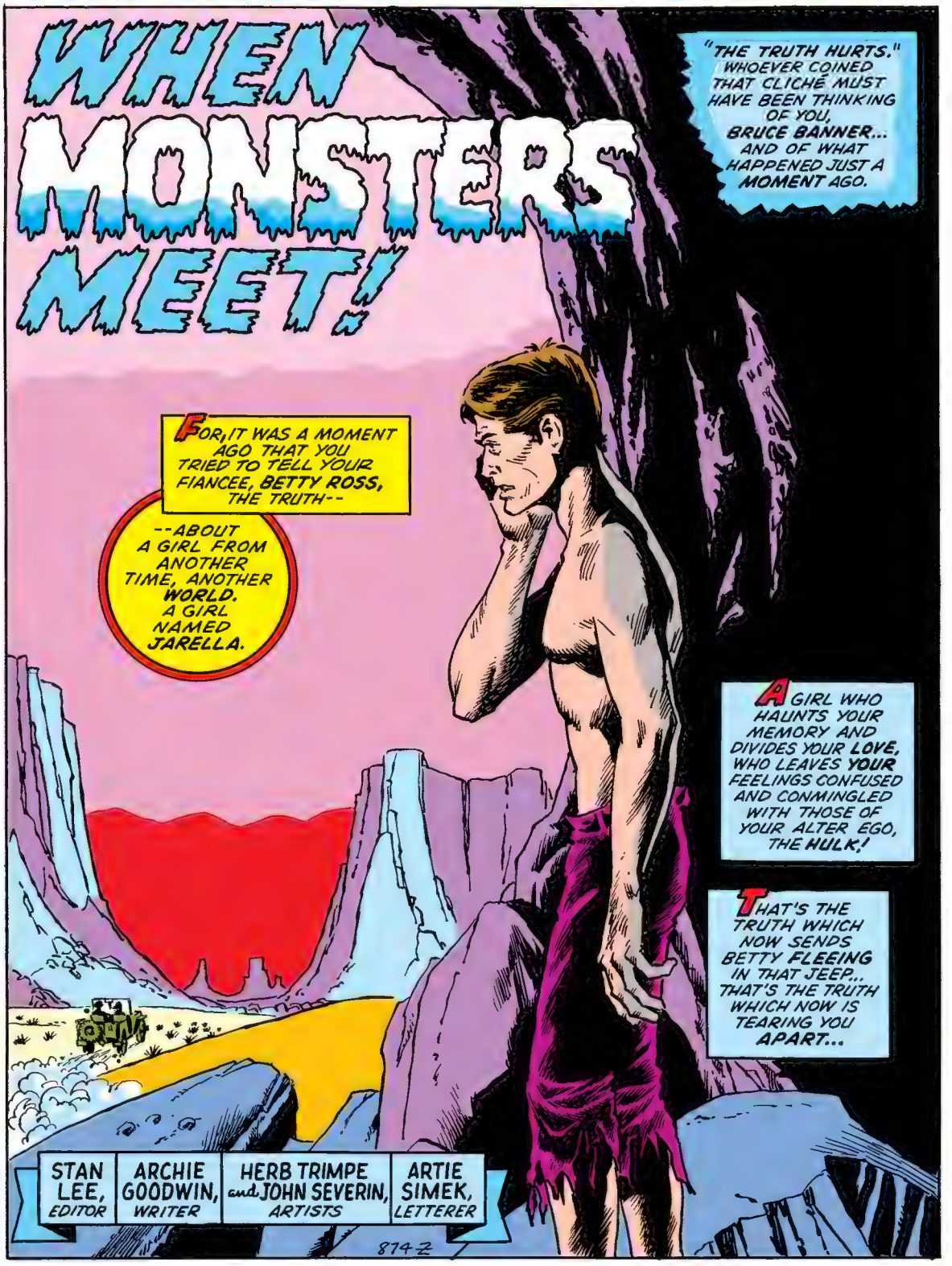
NO, THE FINDING OF BRUCE BANNER REMAINS TO THE ONE WHO HAS ALWAYS SEARCHED FOR HIM IN THE WAKE OF THE HULK.



AND, AS SO MANY TIMES IN THE PAST, AT THE END OF THE HULK'S RAMPAGES---
BETTY ROSS IS REUNITED WITH THE MAN SHE LOVES.
THE CHANGE BACK FROM BEING THAT MONSTER SEEMS MORE DEVASTATING TO HIM EACH TIME.
HE'S JUST BARELY CONSCIOUS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, DARLING---I'M HERE. I'M HERE!
HE'S TRYING TO SPEAK--
--RESPONDING TO MY VOICE.
JARELLA--- MY LOVE---!
JARELLA---?
BETTY---
GLENN-- WHAT IS HE SAYING?
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, ALL THIS WAITING---
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
BETTY, I-- I CAN'T ANSWER THAT---
MAYBE WHEN BRUCE AWAKENS--- HE CAN.
MAYBE.
NEXT: BLOOD OF A MONSTER!


INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢
151
MAY
02456
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INCREDIBLE HULK™
VS. THE CRAWLING UNKNOWN!
HULK'S FIST SINKS RIGHT INTO THE THING THAT LIVES!
FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE HULK IS HELPLESS--HELPLESS!!
TRIMPE & SEVERIN
WHEN MONSTERS MEET!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™


WHEN MONSTERS MEET!
"THE TRUTH HURTS." WHOEVER COINED THAT CLICHÉ MUST HAVE BEEN THINKING OF YOU, BRUCE BANNER... AND OF WHAT HAPPENED JUST A MOMENT AGO.
FOR, IT WAS A MOMENT AGO THAT YOU TRIED TO TELL YOUR FIANCEE, BETTY ROSS, THE TRUTH--
--ABOUT A GIRL FROM ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER WORLD. A GIRL NAMED JARELLA.
A GIRL WHO HAUNTS YOUR MEMORY AND DIVIDES YOUR LOVE, WHO LEAVES YOUR FEELINGS CONFUSED AND COMMINGLED WITH THOSE OF YOUR ALTER EGO, THE HULK!
THAT'S THE TRUTH WHICH NOW SENDS BETTY FLEEING IN THAT JEEP... THAT'S THE TRUTH WHICH NOW IS TEARING YOU APART...
STAN LEE, EDITOR
ARCHIE GOODWIN, WRITER
HERB TRIMPE and JOHN SEVERIN, ARTISTS
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER
874-Z

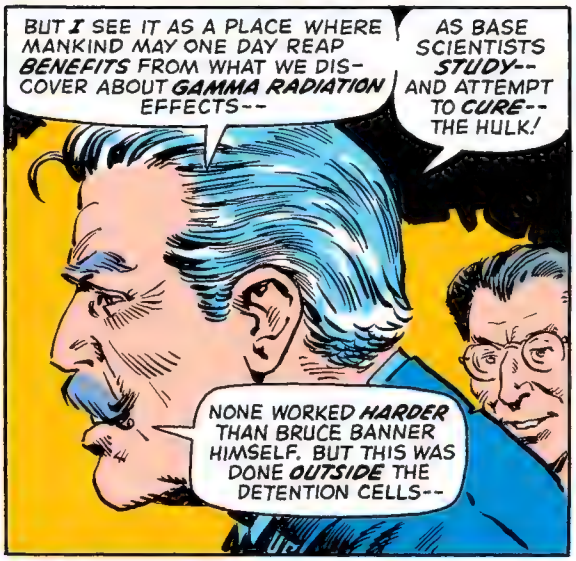
FASTER, GLENN... PLEASE! I WANT TO BE AWAY FROM HERE...AWAY FROM BRUCE!
FAR AWAY!
PERHAPS LATER I CAN TRY TO SEE HIS SIDE, TRY TO UNDERSTAND. BUT RIGHT NOW--
BUT RIGHT NOW, IT HURTS TOO MUCH.
I KNOW, BETTY, I KNOW.
I THOUGHT BY BEING HONEST, I MIGHT SPARE BETTY SOME PAIN.
LORD KNOWS, AFTER STANDING BY ME SINCE GAMMA RAYS FIRST MADE THE THING I AM, SHE'S HAD ENOUGH.
BUT INSTEAD, I ONLY CAUSED HER MORE ANGUISH... MORE!
THE SLIGHT FIGURE SLUMPS IN FRUSTRATION. HANDS THAT ONCE MANIPULATED SLIDE RULES HAMMER THE RED EARTH IN MOUNTING ANGER...
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, BANNER? MAYBE YOU'RE NOT PHYSICALLY THE HULK NOW--
BUT THAT MONSTROUS SIDE OF YOUR NATURE IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.
AND ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, IT REACHES OUT TO DESTROY-- EVERYTHING!
2

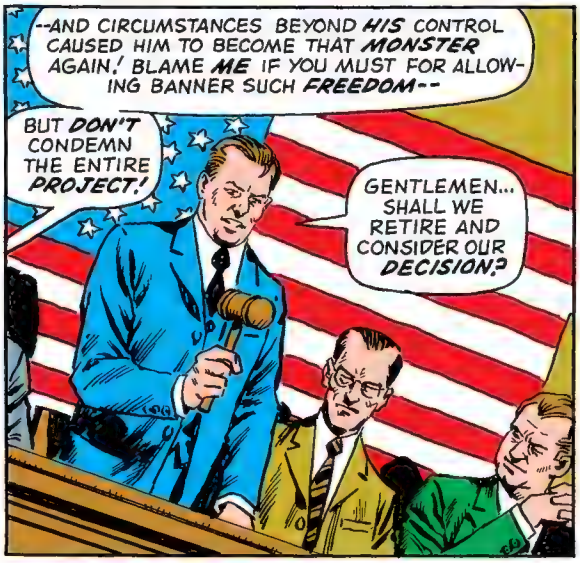
AND, IRONICALLY, THIS HELPLESS, INNER-DIRECTED RAGE OF BRUCE BANNER'S IGNITES THE STRANGE CHEMISTRY WITHIN HIM. THE CHEMISTRY WHICH CHANGES A QUIET NUCLEAR PHYSICIST INTO...
NO! I DIDN'T MEAN--
--TO LOSE CONTROL! DON'T WANT--
--TO BECOME--
THE HULK!
BUT THE ANGER WHICH WROUGHT THIS CHANGE--
--IS IN NO WAY ABATED. AND AN ANGRY HULK DOES NOT REASON, BUT ONLY ACTS!
REMEMBER WATCHING PEOPLE IN JEEP...
THAT IS WHEN ANGER STARTED.
THEY MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO MAKE HULK FEEL LIKE THIS!
THEN, AFTER SEVERAL GREAT LEAPS ACROSS THE SOUTHWESTERN LANDSCAPE...
YOU WERE RIGHT TO SUGGEST STOPPING, GLENN. I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE BASE IN THIS STATE. B-BUT...
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
TALKING MIGHT HELP, BETTY. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE USED TO TALK A LOT. BEFORE YOU AND BRUCE--
AND, ENGROSSED IN EACH OTHER, THEY REMAIN OBLIVIOUS TO YOU, DON'T THEY, HULK?
OBLIVIOUS TO THE COLD RAGE RADIATING FROM YOU AT THE SIGHT OF MAJOR TALBOT'S UNIFORM, SYMBOL OF ALL WHO'VE HUNTED AND PURSUED YOU...
A SYMBOL YOU FEEL--
--MUST BE CRUSHED!
3.

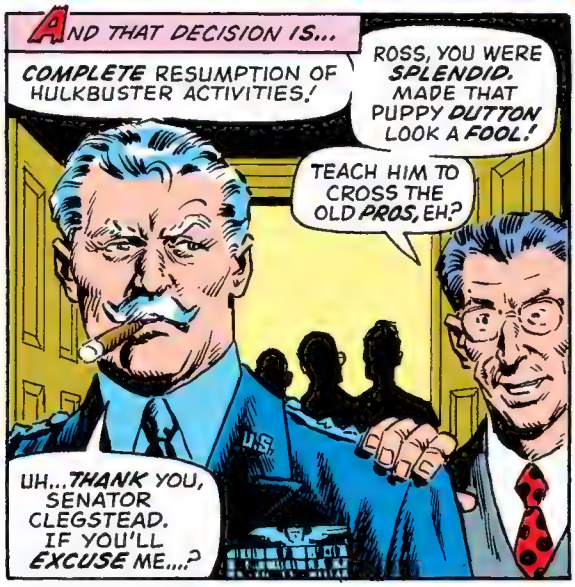
UNTIL, A WOMAN DESPERATELY NEEDING WARMTH AND ASSURANCE, A MAN WHO HAS WAITED LONG AND SILENTLY TO GIVE THAT AND MORE--
--ARE DRAWN SUDDENLY, INEVITABLY, CLOSE.
AND WITHIN YOUR GREAT, BRUTE MIND, HULK, SOMETHING IS TOUCHED.
SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU TURN, AND LEAVE UNNOTICED AS YOU CAME.
PERHAPS IT'S A RE-MEMBRANCE OF A TINY WORLD, A GIRL CALLED JARELLA, AND A BRIEF MOMENT OF HAPPINESS AND PEACE...
OR PERHAPS, THE THOUGHT THAT IN ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE, THE MAN IN THE JEEP MIGHT SOME-HOW HAVE BEEN YOU.
MEANWHILE, IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL... A CONGRESSIONAL HEARING IS UNDERWAY.
AND CALLED UPON TO TESTIFY IS--
--GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS.
BLAST IT, GENTLEMEN! IF CONGRESSMAN DUTTON HERE WANTS ME TO HAND IN MY STARS--
I WISH HE'D COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY SO.
BECAUSE IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO GET OPERATIONS RESUMED AT PROJECT GREENSKIN... I'LL DO IT!
4

RATHER THAN A DRAMATIC RESIGNATION, GENERAL, I'D LIKE A SIMPLE EXPLANATION.
MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE, SENATOR MORTON CLEGSTEAD--
--PUSHED THROUGH APPROVAL FOR THIS "HULKBUSTER" BASE OF YOURS, THIS "PERFECT OPERATION" FOR THE CAPTURE AND DETENTION OF THE HULK.
YET THE FIRST TIME IT'S USED, THE HULK TEARS IT APART AND ESCAPES!*
HOW, SIR? WHY?!
*ISSUES 149-50. --STAN

HAVE MILLIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE FOUGHT POVERTY OR POLLUTION BEEN WASTED?!
IF YOU JUDGE THE HULKBUSTER BASE AS JUST A FANCY PRISON, SON...
YES.

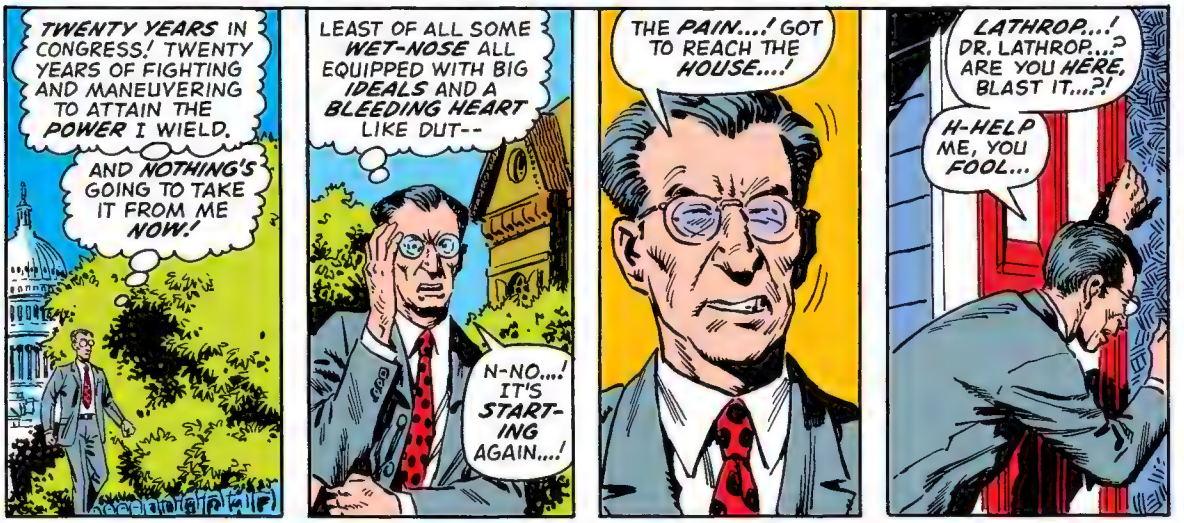

BUT I SEE IT AS A PLACE WHERE MANKIND MAY ONE DAY REAP BENEFITS FROM WHAT WE DISCOVER ABOUT GAMMA RADIATION EFFECTS--
AS BASE SCIENTISTS STUDY-- AND ATTEMPT TO CURE-- THE HULK!
NONE WORKED HARDER THAN BRUCE BANNER HIMSELF. BUT THIS WAS DONE OUTSIDE THE DETENTION CELLS--

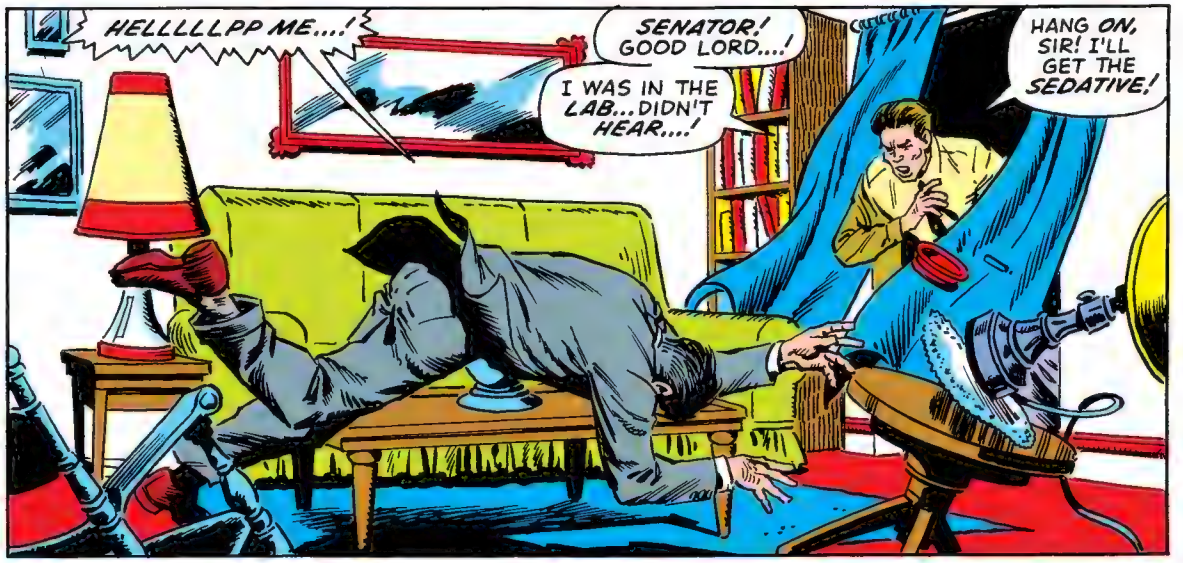

--AND CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND HIS CONTROL CAUSED HIM TO BECOME THAT MONSTER AGAIN.' BLAME ME IF YOU MUST FOR ALLOWING BANNER SUCH FREEDOM--
BUT DON'T CONDEMN THE ENTIRE PROJECT!
GENTLEMEN... SHALL WE RETIRE AND CONSIDER OUR DECISION?

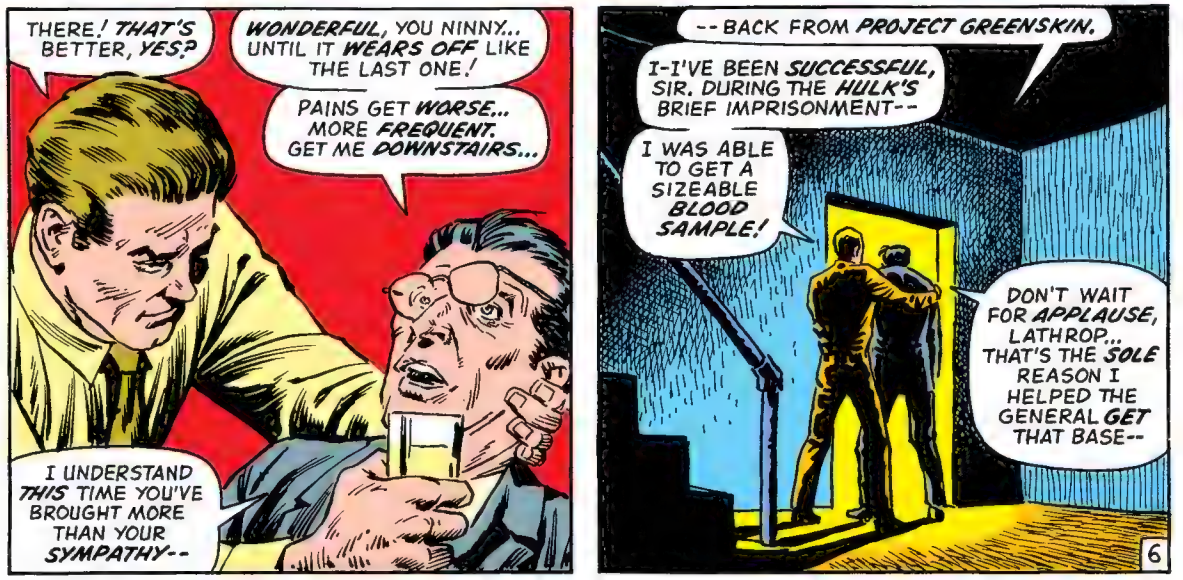

AND THAT DECISION IS...
COMPLETE RESUMPTION OF HULKBUSTER ACTIVITIES.'
ROSS, YOU WERE SPLENDID. MADE THAT PUPPY DUTTON LOOK A FOOL!
TEACH HIM TO CROSS THE OLD PROS, EH?
UH... THANK YOU, SENATOR CLEGSTEAD. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...?

BLAST IT--WITHOUT CLEGSTEAD'S POLITICAL CLOUT, THERE MIGHT NOT BE A HULKBUSTER BASE.
BUT I CAN'T WARM UP TO THE MAN AT ALL!
MAYBE IT'S THE WAY HE OVERDID THAT "GREEN MENACE" BULL, DRUMMED UP ANTI-HULK HYSTERIA JUST TO GET SUPPORT.
CAN'T HELP WONDERING WHAT HIS TRUE MOTIVES ARE...

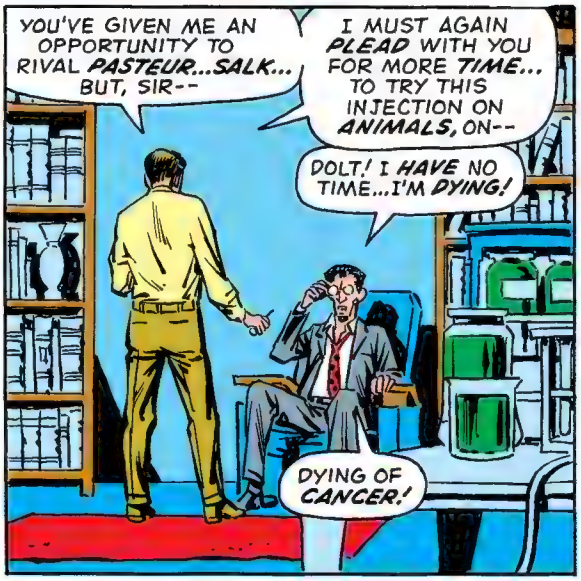
THEN LET US DO WHAT GENERAL ROSS CANNOT. LET US EXAMINE SENATOR MORTON CLEGSTEAD IN AN UNGUARDED MOMENT. A MOMENT OF REVELATION... AND OF AGONY.


TWENTY YEARS IN CONGRESS! TWENTY YEARS OF FIGHTING AND MANEUVERING TO ATTAIN THE POWER I WIELD.
AND NOTHING'S GOING TO TAKE IT FROM ME NOW!
LEAST OF ALL SOME WET-NOSE ALL EQUIPPED WITH BIG IDEALS AND A BLEEDING HEART LIKE DUT--
N-NO...! IT'S STARTING AGAIN...!
THE PAIN...! GOT TO REACH THE HOUSE...!
LATHROP...! DR. LATHROP...? ARE YOU HERE, BLAST IT...?!
H-HELP ME, YOU FOOL...

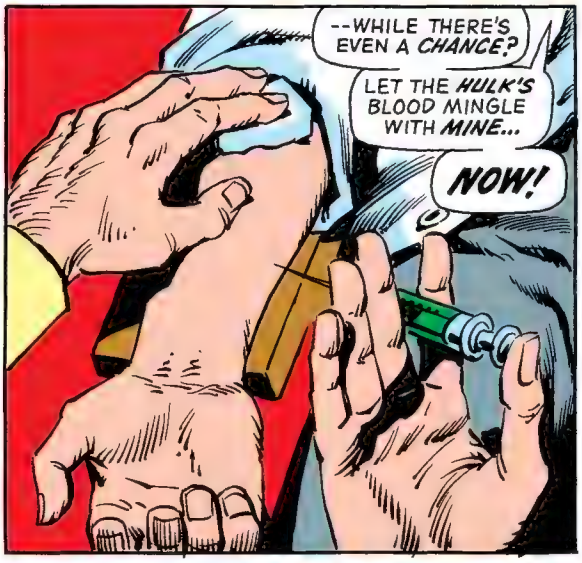


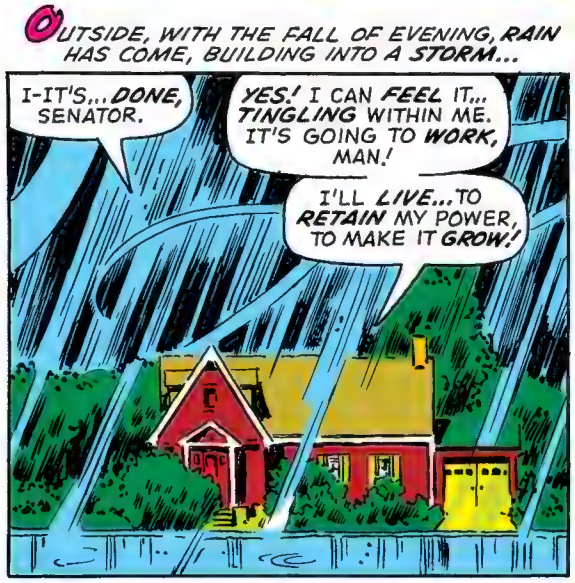

THERE! THAT'S BETTER, YES?
WONDERFUL, YOU NINNY... UNTIL IT WEARS OFF LIKE THE LAST ONE!
PAINS GET WORSE... MORE FREQUENT. GET ME DOWNSTAIRS...
I UNDERSTAND THIS TIME YOU'VE BROUGHT MORE THAN YOUR SYMPATHY--
--BACK FROM PROJECT GREENSKIN.
I-I'VE BEEN SUCCESSFUL, SIR. DURING THE HULK'S BRIEF IMPRISONMENT--
I WAS ABLE TO GET A SIZEABLE BLOOD SAMPLE!
DON'T WAIT FOR APPLAUSE, LATHROP... THAT'S THE SOLE REASON I HELPED THE GENERAL GET THAT BASE--

--AND THE SOLE REASON FOR PLANTING YOU AMONG THE SCIENTISTS WORKING THERE.
ALL TO ULTIMATELY TEST YOUR THEORY!
THE THEORY NO ONE WOULD LISTEN TO EXCEPT ME, EH, LATHROP?


YOU'VE GIVEN ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO RIVAL PASTEUR...SALK... BUT, SIR--
I MUST AGAIN PLEAD WITH YOU FOR MORE TIME... TO TRY THIS INJECTION ON ANIMALS, ON--
DOLT! I HAVE NO TIME...I'M DYING!
DYING OF CANCER!

UNLESS, AS YOU THEORIZE, THE HULK'S BLOOD, LACED AS IT IS WITH RADIO-ACTIVITY, CAN DESTROY THE MALIGNANT CELL GROWTH NOW CONSUMING ME--
--CAN ACT AS A SUPERIOR FORM OF THE RADIATION TREATMENTS WHICH ARE SOMETIMES SUCCESSFUL.
WHAT DO I CARE FOR PRECAUTIONS--


--WHILE THERE'S EVEN A CHANCE?
LET THE HULK'S BLOOD MINGLE WITH MINE...
NOW!


OUTSIDE, WITH THE FALL OF EVENING, RAIN HAS COME, BUILDING INTO A STORM...
I-IT'S... DONE, SENATOR.
YES! I CAN FEEL IT... TINGLING WITHIN ME. IT'S GOING TO WORK, MAN!
I'LL LIVE...TO RETAIN MY POWER, TO MAKE IT GROW!

BUT OTHER EVENTS ARE SHAPING THIS NIGHT...
AS OUT OF THE RISING WIND, THE PELTING RAINDROPS...
A FREIGHT TRAIN NEARS WASHINGTON.

AND CARRIED WITH THE RAIN AND THE STORM IS A MAN. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER...

...CHANGED BACK FROM THE HULK, BUT STILL HAUNTED BY THAT CREATURE'S DREAMS...

...WHICH MAY ALSO BE HIS OWN.

HANK PYM! SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF HIM BEFORE.

HE COULD HOLD THE SOLUTION FOR MY WHOLE MESSED-UP LIFE!

NOW!
APPEARING AT...
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON D.C.
AT THE...
LISNER AUDITORIUM
HANK PYM
ANT-MAN!

THE HULK AND I HAVE CAUSED TROUBLE ENOUGH FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD... PARTICULARLY BETTY ROSS.

BETTER TO GO WHERE MY GREAT, GREEN ALTER EGO WAS ACCEPTED--EVEN LOVED...JARELLA'S SUB-ATOMIC WORLD!

AND WHO COULD BETTER HELP ME THAN THE GENIUS OF GROWTH-CHANGE WHO BECAME ANT-MAN?

THUS, SOMETIME LATER, A FIGURE APPROACHES AN AUDITORIUM AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY...

A PERSON CLAD IN GARMENTS SO BATTERED, SO WORN, AS TO LOOK LIKE SOMEONE'S CAST-OFFS.

FROM UNDER A RAIN-DRENCHED HAT BRIM, EYES STUDY A POSTER...

ANT
TELLS IT LIKE IT IS!
ALL T
WE
HANK PYM
8:30 P.M.

EYES ALIGHT WITH SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE HOPE.

THEN, WITH MOVEMENTS NERVOUS AND EAGER, THE FIGURE ENTERS THE BUILDING...

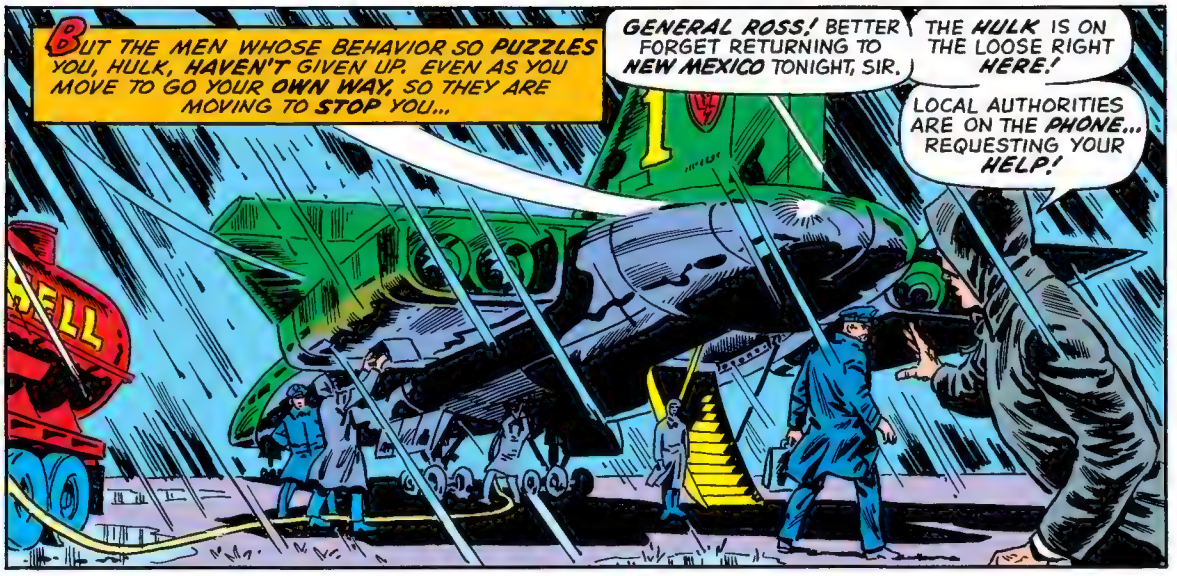
...TO FIND...

IF YOU COME TO SEE THAT ANT-MAN FELLA, JUST TURN AROUND AN' GO BACK HOME.

HE'S CANCELLED OUT FOR THIS EVENIN'!

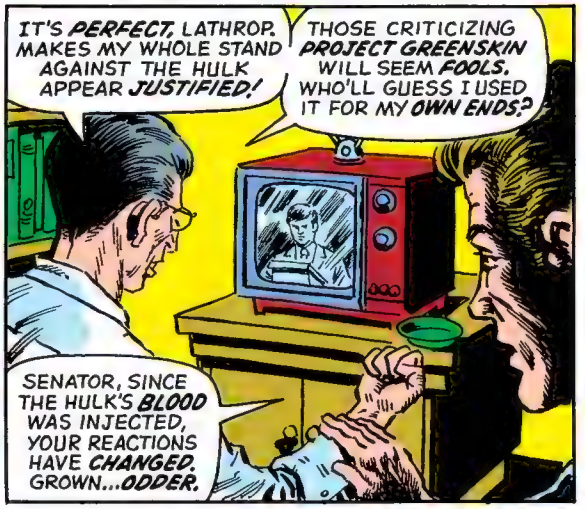
CANCELLED.? BUT IT'S VITAL THAT I TALK WITH PYM.
CAN YOU AT LEAST TELL ME IF HE'S IN TOWN.?
PLEASE! I KNOW HIM. WE'RE FELLOW SCIENTISTS, AND--
JUST HOLD IT RIGHT THERE. I AINT THAT INSECT-FELLA'S SOCIAL SECRETARY!
AN' YOU SURE AS SHOOTIN' AINT NO SCIENTIST!
LOOK AT YOU! NOT EVEN A SHIRT ON UNDER THAT COAT!
I--
GUESS I KNOW A NUT WHEN I SEE ONE! CLEAR OUT... OR I CALL THE COPS!
A LITTLE LAW'N'ORDER MIGHT JUST SET YOU STRAIGHT!
DON'T THREATEN, PLEASE. DON'T MAKE ME ANGRY!
DON'T! OR I--
YOU'LL WHAT, SONNY.? THINK I GIVE A FIG IF A SKINNY FELLA LIKE YOU GETS--
...GETS... GETS...
OHMIGOSH!
WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO YOU.? WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?!
S-SOMEBODY HELP ME... HELP!
DON'T YELL... TALK!
TELL HULK WHERE TO FIND MAN WHO CAN MAKE HIM SMALL.
SMALL ENOUGH TO FIND JARELLA!
WRRAM!
TELL BEFORE HULK REALLY GETS MAD!
9

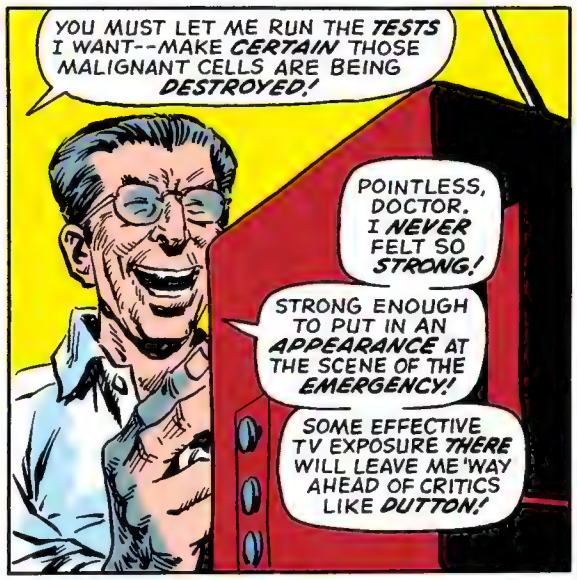
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...
GOOD THING THE PRECINCT'S BEEN MAINTAININ' THESE ON-CAMPUS PATROLS, DAN.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S TAKIN' THAT AUDITORIUM APART!
LET'S GET IN THERE!
BUT THAT PROVES DISTINCTLY UNNECESSARY, FOR--
HULK IS COMING OUT!
LOUD LITTLE MAN IS SUDDENLY TOO SCARED TO SAY ANYTHING, SO--
WHAT? MEN WITH GUNS...!
HULK HATES MEN WITH GUNS!
ALWAYS THEY HUNT HULK, HOUND HULK... NEVER LET HIM BE!
KEE-RIPES!
WE'RE GONNA NEED THE RIOT SQUAD!
SKRUNCH!
BETTER GET 'EM ON FOOT! HE JUST BROKE OUR RADIO--
--AND THE CAR AROUND IT!
NOW THEY'VE SEEN WHAT HULK WILL DO IF THEY BOTHER AND CHASE HIM.
BUT WHY DOES HULK ALWAYS HAVE TO SMASH AND POUND BEFORE MEN LEAVE HIM ALONE?
NO MATTER. MUST FIND ONE WHO CAN GET HULK TO JARELLA'S WORLD.
10

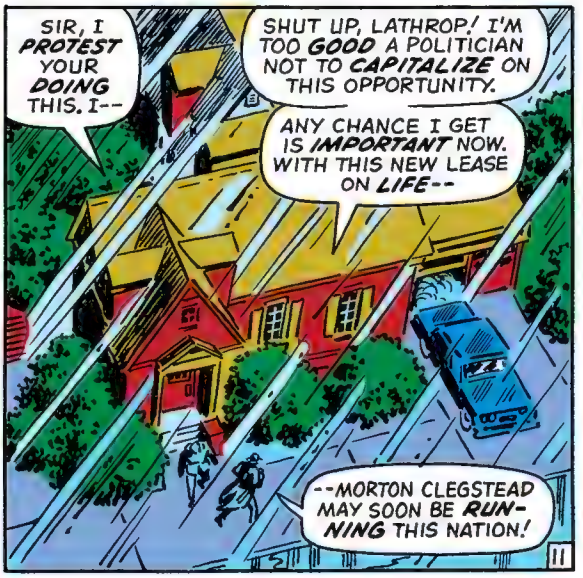

BUT THE MEN WHOSE BEHAVIOR SO PUZZLES YOU, HULK, HAVEN'T GIVEN UP. EVEN AS YOU MOVE TO GO YOUR OWN WAY, SO THEY ARE MOVING TO STOP YOU...
GENERAL ROSS! BETTER FORGET RETURNING TO NEW MEXICO TONIGHT, SIR.
THE HULK IS ON THE LOOSE RIGHT HERE!
LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE ON THE PHONE... REQUESTING YOUR HELP!

HE'S MOVING TOWARD DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON?
I'LL JOIN YOUR UNITS AS THEY CONVERGE ON HIM.
AND USE CAUTION. IF THIS THING IS HANDLED WRONG--
THAT BRUTE CAN TURN THE CAPITAL INTO A DISASTER AREA!

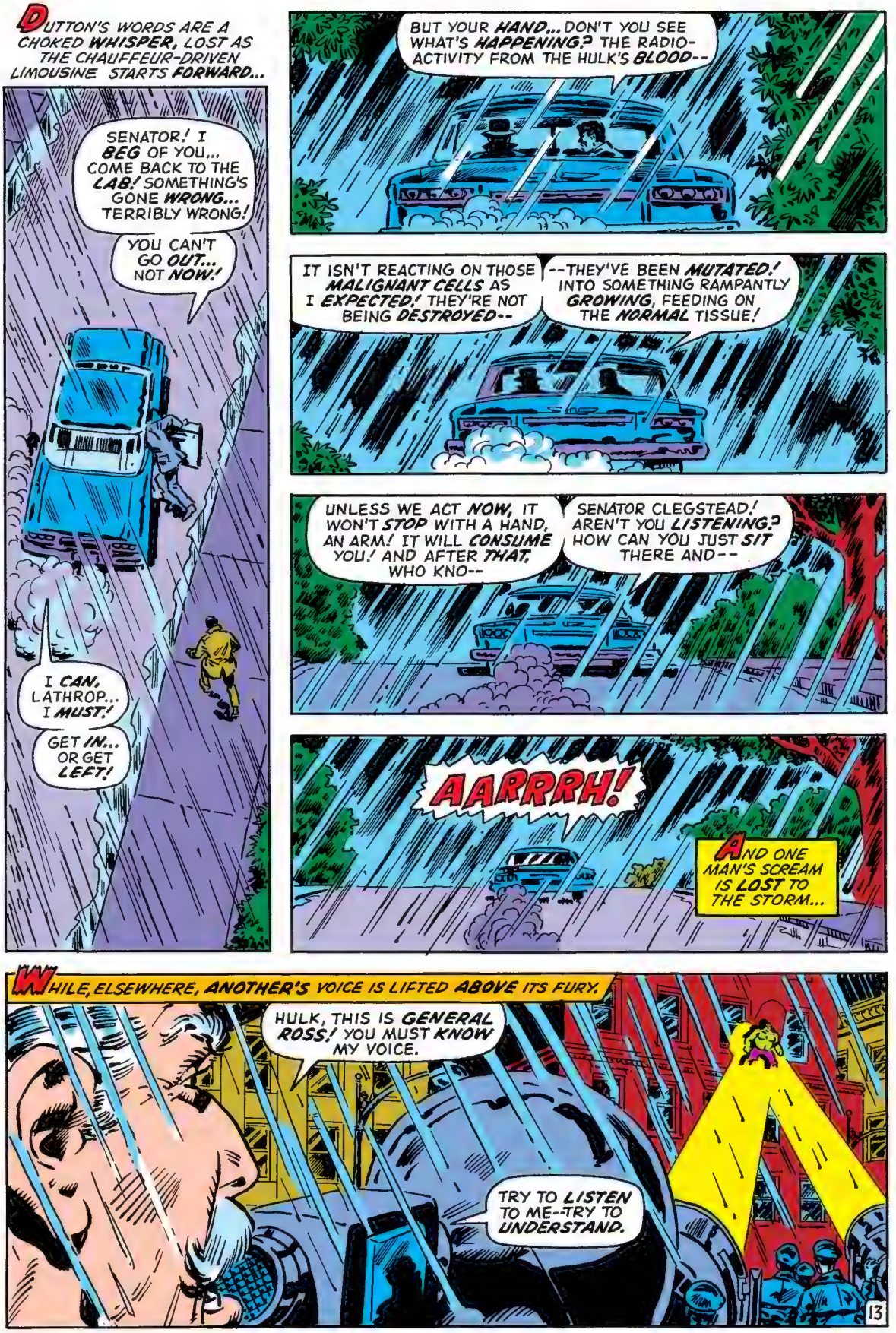
BUT NOT EVERYONE SHARES THE GENERAL'S CONCERN WITH THE SITUATION...


IT'S PERFECT, LATHROP. MAKES MY WHOLE STAND AGAINST THE HULK APPEAR JUSTIFIED!
THOSE CRITICIZING PROJECT GREENSKIN WILL SEEM FOOLS. WHO'LL GUESS I USED IT FOR MY OWN ENDS?
SENATOR, SINCE THE HULK'S BLOOD WAS INJECTED, YOUR REACTIONS HAVE CHANGED. GROWN...ODDER.

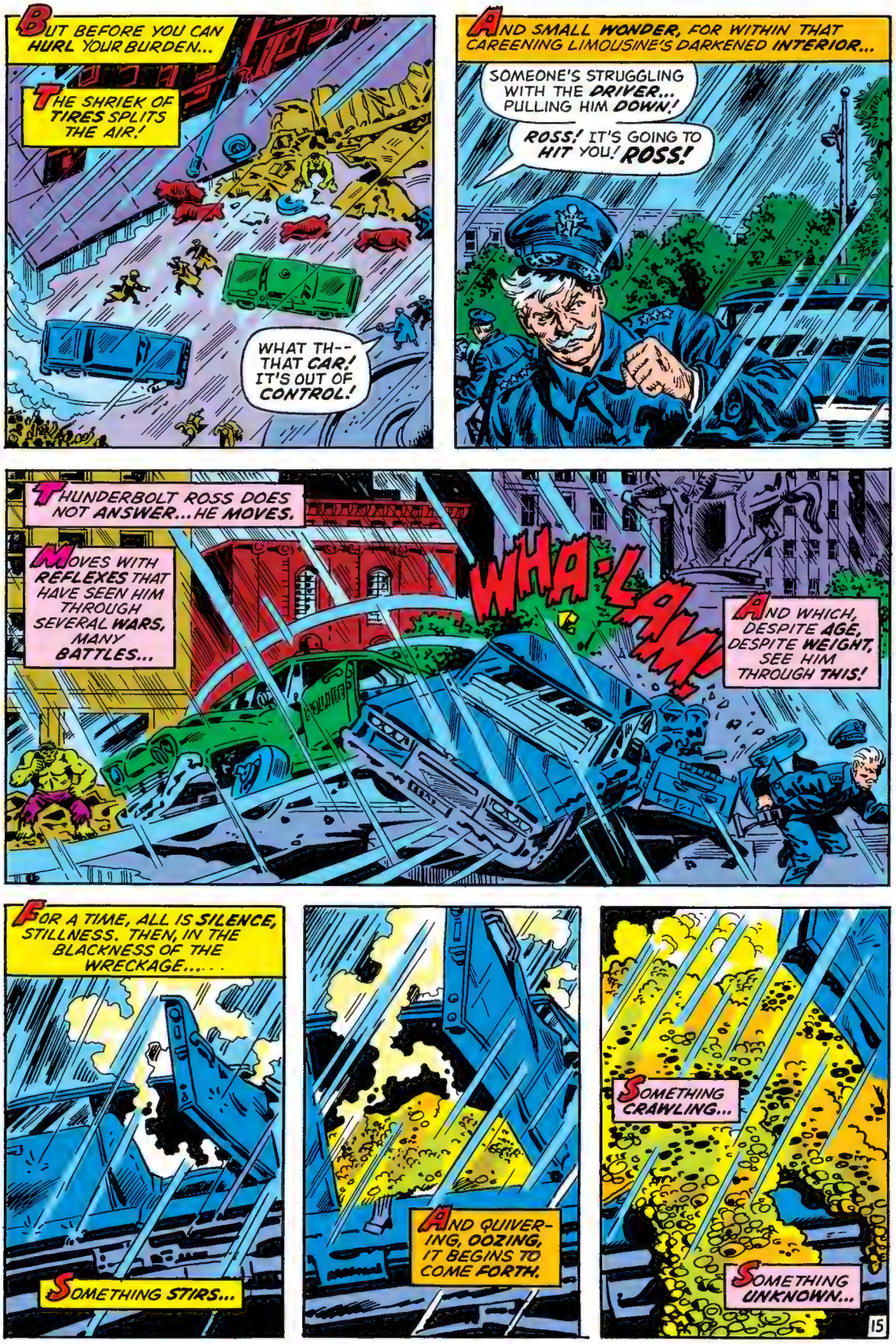

YOU MUST LET ME RUN THE TESTS I WANT--MAKE CERTAIN THOSE MALIGNANT CELLS ARE BEING DESTROYED!
POINTLESS, DOCTOR. I NEVER FELT SO STRONG!
STRONG ENOUGH TO PUT IN AN APPEARANCE AT THE SCENE OF THE EMERGENCY!
SOME EFFECTIVE TV EXPOSURE THERE WILL LEAVE ME 'WAY AHEAD OF CRITICS LIKE DUTTON!

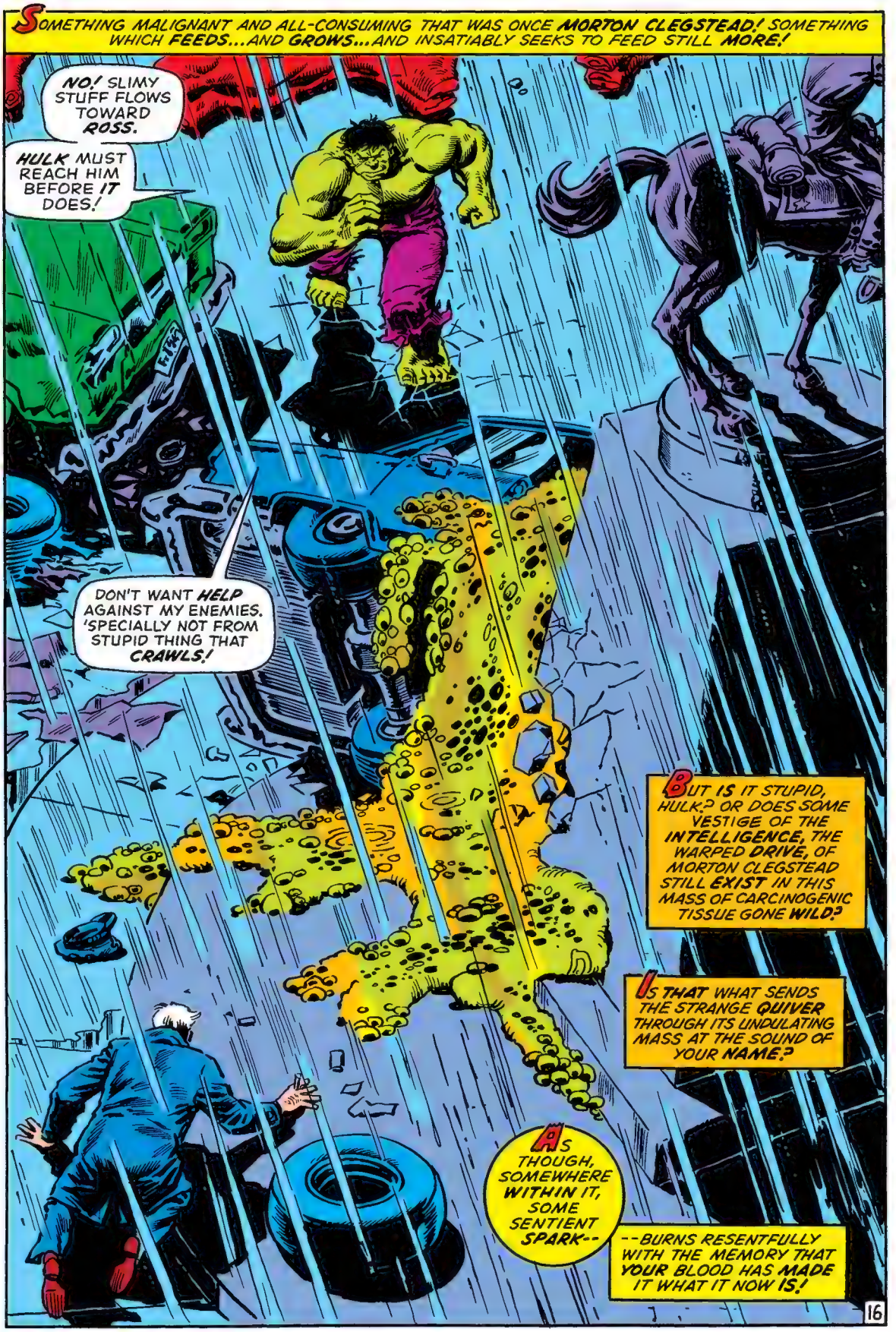

SIR, I PROTEST YOUR DOING THIS. I--
SHUT UP, LATHROP! I'M TOO GOOD A POLITICIAN NOT TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS OPPORTUNITY.
ANY CHANCE I GET IS IMPORTANT NOW. WITH THIS NEW LEASE ON LIFE--
--MORTON CLEGSTEAD MAY SOON BE RUNNING THIS NATION!

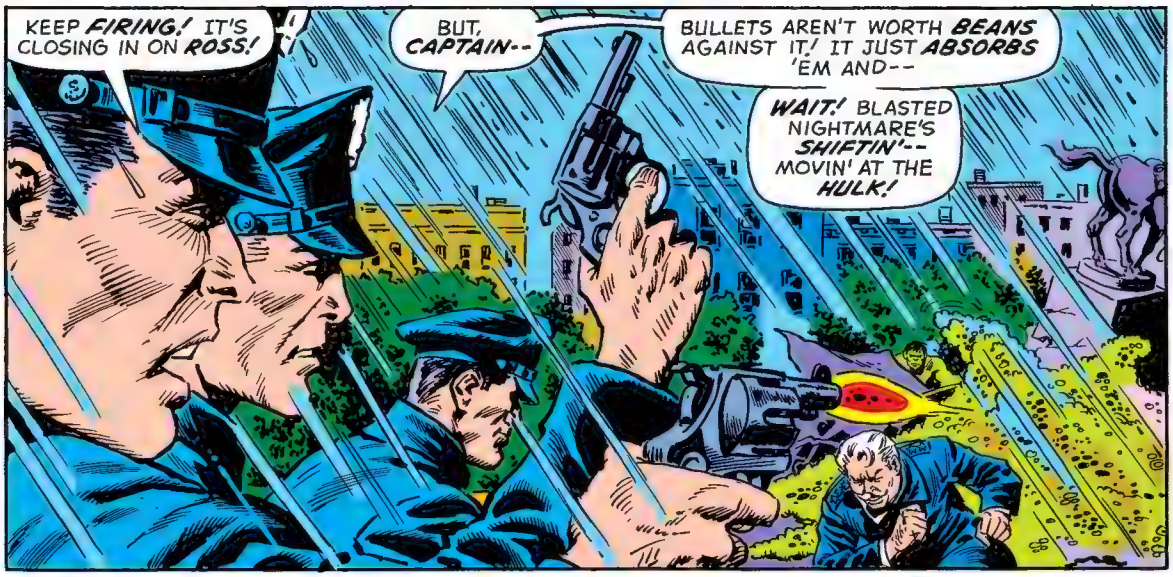
NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, SENATOR.
AND REST ASSURED, AFTER TONIGHT, I HAVE PLENTY!
DUTTON! HOW DARE YOU SKULK ABOUT OUTSIDE MY HOME?
I WAS COMING TO SEE YOU, CLEGSTEAD...FOR SOME ANSWERS.
PERHAPS NOW WE SHOULD START WITH WHAT A PROJECT GREENSKIN SCIENTIST IS DOING REPORTING TO YOU!
I'VE BETTER THINGS TO DO THIS EVENING--
--THAN ANSWER THE RAVINGS OF A MEDDLING FIRST-TERM CONGRESSMAN!
OUT OF MY WAY!
WOK!
W-WHAT...?
ONLY MEANT TO BRUSH HIM ASIDE... BUT THE BLOW STRUCK WITH SUCH FORCE!
AND... I'VE ALMOST AN URGE TO-- CONTINUE THE ATTACK!
BUT THE SENATOR MOVES ON. AND, AS A SURPRISED ROGER DUTTON RISES TO CALL AFTER HIM...
LIGHTNING FLASHES. AND IN ITS GLOW...
CLEGSTEAD! GOOD LORD...
...YOUR H-HAND!
12

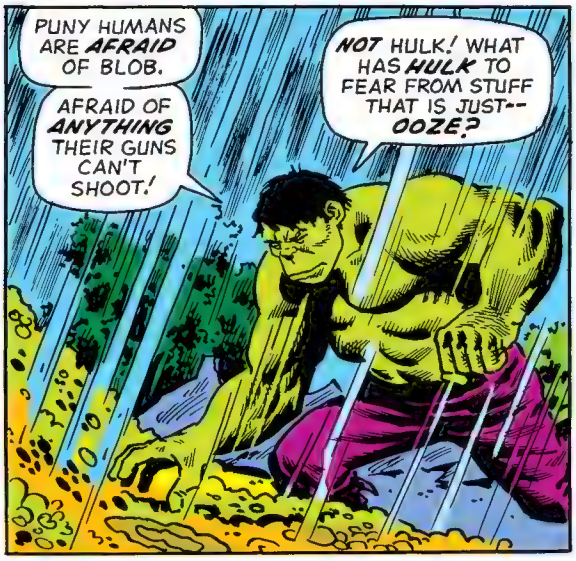

DUTTON'S WORDS ARE A CHOKED WHISPER, LOST AS THE CHAUFFEUR-DRIVEN LIMOUSINE STARTS FORWARD...
SENATOR! I BEG OF YOU... COME BACK TO THE LAB! SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG... TERRIBLY WRONG!
YOU CAN'T GO OUT... NOT NOW!
I CAN, LATHROP... I MUST!
GET IN... OR GET LEFT!
BUT YOUR HAND... DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE RADIO-ACTIVITY FROM THE HULK'S BLOOD--
IT ISN'T REACTING ON THOSE MALIGNANT CELLS AS I EXPECTED! THEY'RE NOT BEING DESTROYED--
--THEY'VE BEEN MUTATED! INTO SOMETHING RAMPANTLY GROWING, FEEDING ON THE NORMAL TISSUE!
UNLESS WE ACT NOW, IT WON'T STOP WITH A HAND, AN ARM! IT WILL CONSUME YOU! AND AFTER THAT, WHO KNO--
SENATOR CLEGSTEAD! AREN'T YOU LISTENING? HOW CAN YOU JUST SIT THERE AND--
AARRRH!
AND ONE MAN'S SCREAM IS LOST TO THE STORM...
WHILE, ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER'S VOICE IS LIFTED ABOVE ITS FURY.
HULK, THIS IS GENERAL ROSS! YOU MUST KNOW MY VOICE.
TRY TO LISTEN TO ME--TRY TO UNDERSTAND.
13

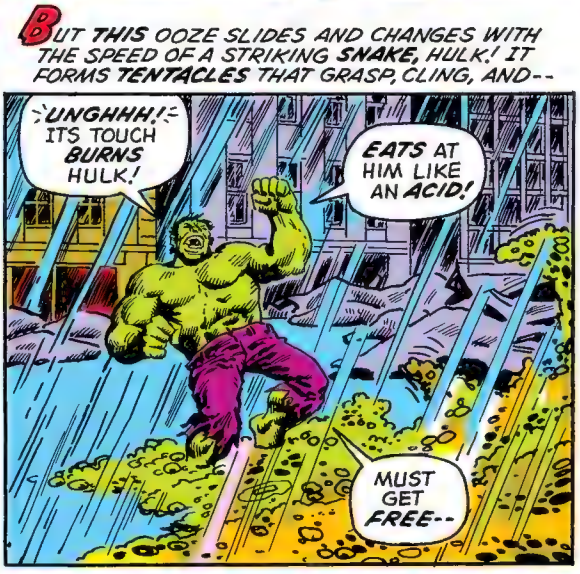
THERE ARE INNOCENT LIVES AT STAKE HERE, HULK.
WE'D LIKE TO AVOID A BATTLE.
IF YOU'LL COME DOWN, COME WITH ME, I PROMISE--
YES, ROSS! HULK KNOWS YOUR VOICE... AND YOUR PROMISES!
DON'T LIKE EITHER OF THEM!
ALWAYS HEAR THEM JUST BEFORE SOMEONE FIRES SHELLS OR THROWS GAS!
WON'T BE FOOLED THIS TIME--
THIS TIME, HULK STRIKES FIRST!
LORD, GENERAL! HE DEMOLISHED THAT REFRIGERATOR TRUCK WITH ONE LEAP!
PULL BACK, SIR!
QUALITY MEATS
YOM!
THEIR FRIGHT FIRES YOUR RAGE, DOESN'T IT, HULK?
MAKES YOU WANT TO DO MORE TO THESE MEN WHO CONSTANTLY PURSUE YOU AND DENY YOU PEACE...
MAKES YOU HEAVE THAT MASSIVE WRECK ABOVE YOUR HEAD LIKE A TOY...SPILLING GREAT FROZEN CARCASSES FROM ITS INTERIOR...

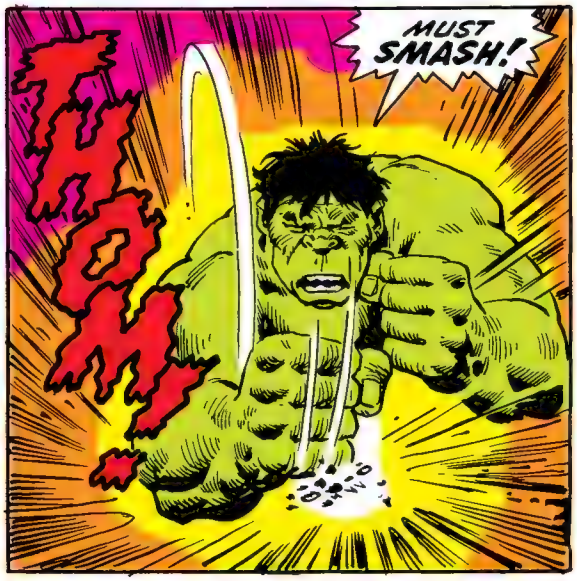

BUT BEFORE YOU CAN HURL YOUR BURDEN...
THE SHRIEK OF TIRES SPLITS THE AIR!
WHAT TH-- THAT CAR! IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!
AND SMALL WONDER, FOR WITHIN THAT CAREENING LIMOUSINE'S DARKENED INTERIOR...
SOMEONE'S STRUGGLING WITH THE DRIVER... PULLING HIM DOWN!
ROSS! IT'S GOING TO HIT YOU! ROSS!
THUNDERBOLT ROSS DOES NOT ANSWER...HE MOVES.
MOVES WITH REFLEXES THAT HAVE SEEN HIM THROUGH SEVERAL WARS, MANY BATTLES...
WHA-LAM!
AND WHICH, DESPITE AGE, DESPITE WEIGHT, SEE HIM THROUGH THIS!
FOR A TIME, ALL IS SILENCE, STILLNESS. THEN, IN THE BLACKNESS OF THE WRECKAGE.....
SOMETHING STIRS...
AND QUIVERING, OOZING, IT BEGINS TO COME FORTH.
SOMETHING CRAWLING...
SOMETHING UNKNOWN...
15

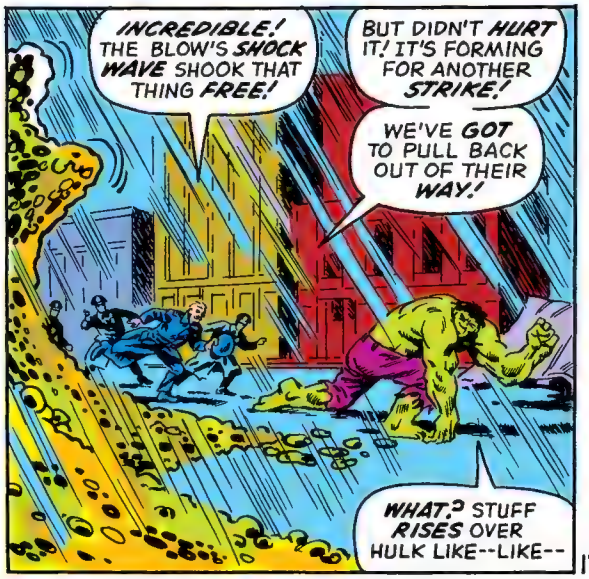

SOMETHING MALIGNANT AND ALL-CONSUMING THAT WAS ONCE MORTON CLEGSTEAD! SOMETHING WHICH FEEDS...AND GROWS...AND INSATIABLY SEEKS TO FEED STILL MORE!
NO! SLIMY STUFF FLOWS TOWARD ROSS.
HULK MUST REACH HIM BEFORE IT DOES!
DON'T WANT HELP AGAINST MY ENEMIES. 'SPECIALLY NOT FROM STUPID THING THAT CRAWLS!
BUT IS IT STUPID, HULK? OR DOES SOME VESTIGE OF THE INTELLIGENCE, THE WARPED DRIVE, OF MORTON CLEGSTEAD STILL EXIST IN THIS MASS OF CARCINOGENIC TISSUE GONE WILD?
IS THAT WHAT SENDS THE STRANGE QUIVER THROUGH ITS UNDULATING MASS AT THE SOUND OF YOUR NAME?
AS THOUGH, SOMEWHERE WITHIN IT, SOME SENTIENT SPARK--
--BURNS RESENTFULLY WITH THE MEMORY THAT YOUR BLOOD HAS MADE IT WHAT IT NOW IS!

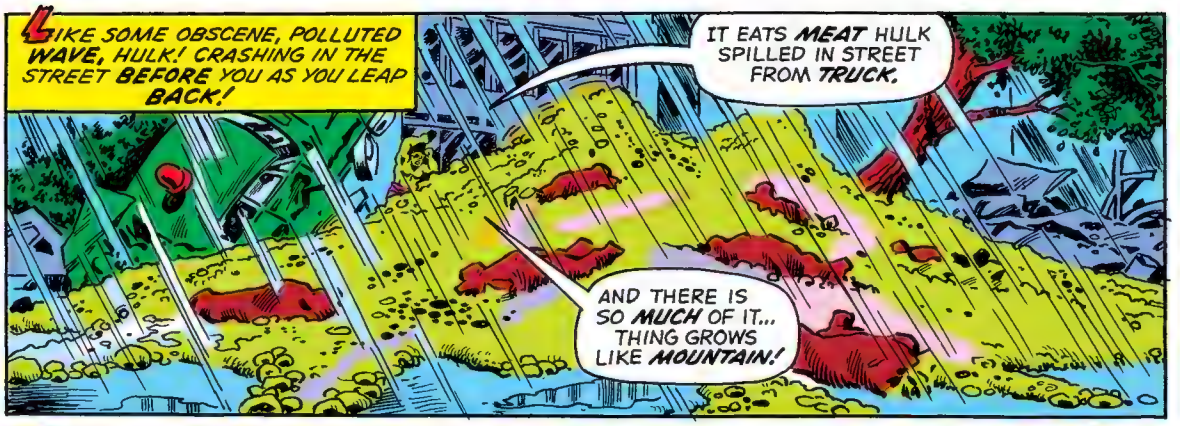

KEEP FIRING! IT'S CLOSING IN ON ROSS!
BUT, CAPTAIN--
BULLETS AREN'T WORTH BEANS AGAINST IT! IT JUST ABSORBS 'EM AND--
WAIT! BLASTED NIGHTMARE'S SHIFTIN'-- MOVIN' AT THE HULK!


PUNY HUMANS ARE AFRAID OF BLOB.
AFRAID OF ANYTHING THEIR GUNS CAN'T SHOOT!
NOT HULK! WHAT HAS HULK TO FEAR FROM STUFF THAT IS JUST-- OOZE?


BUT THIS OOZE SLIDES AND CHANGES WITH THE SPEED OF A STRIKING SNAKE, HULK! IT FORMS TENTACLES THAT GRASP, CLING, AND--
UNGHHH! ITS TOUCH BURNS HULK!
EATS AT HIM LIKE AN ACID!
MUST GET FREE--


MUST SMASH!
KOM

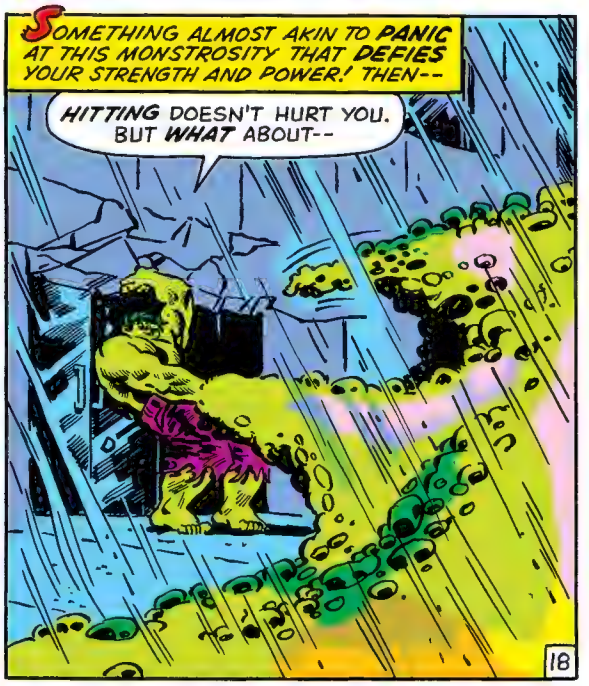

INCREDIBLE! THE BLOW'S SHOCK WAVE SHOOK THAT THING FREE!
BUT DIDN'T HURT IT! IT'S FORMING FOR ANOTHER STRIKE!
WE'VE GOT TO PULL BACK OUT OF THEIR WAY!
WHAT? STUFF RISES OVER HULK LIKE--LIKE--

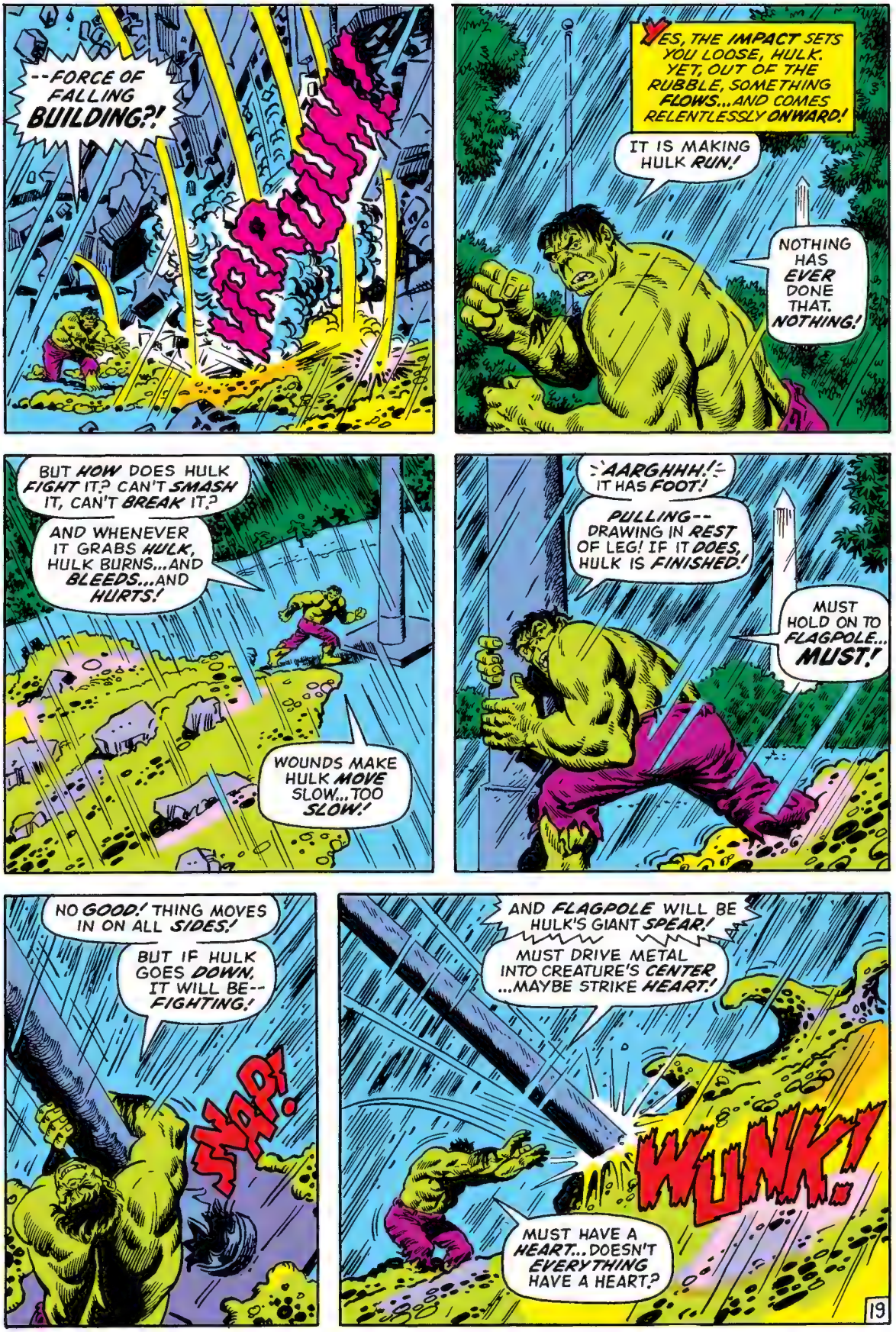

LIKE SOME OBSCENE, POLLUTED WAVE, HULK! CRASHING IN THE STREET BEFORE YOU AS YOU LEAP BACK!
IT EATS MEAT HULK SPILLED IN STREET FROM TRUCK.
AND THERE IS SO MUCH OF IT... THING GROWS LIKE MOUNTAIN!

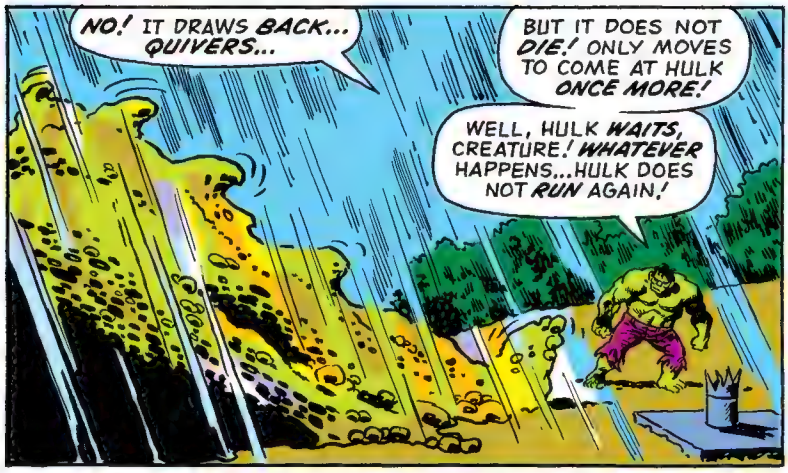
A MOUNTAIN THAT SHIFTS AND SLITHERS, AND DIABOLICALLY ATTACKS YOU, HULK...
A MOUNTAIN POSSESSED OF A TWISTED, ONCE-HUMAN WILL...
A WILL TO HATE YOU--

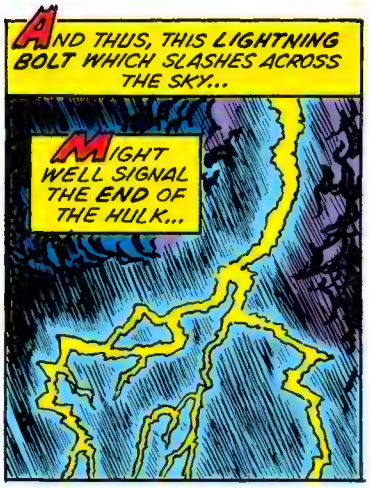
--AND TO DESTROY YOU, HULK!
NO!
YOU ARE JUST A THING!
A CRAWLING, SLIMY THING... YOU CANNOT BEAT HULK!

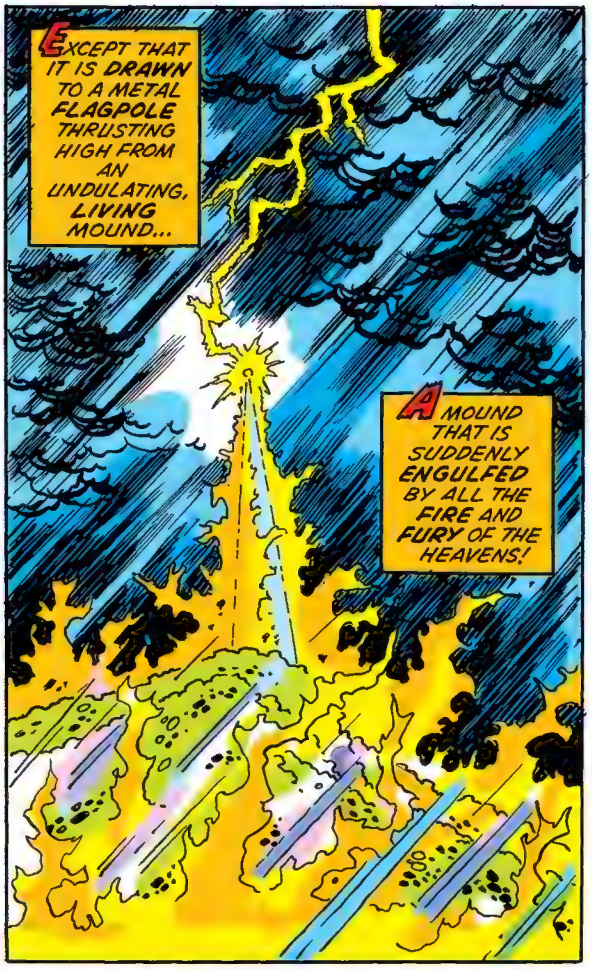
BUT--
MY FIST! MY FIST! ALWAYS IT HAS ONE MORE TENTACLE--
GRABBING-- SUCKING AT HULK'S FLESH LIKE A LEECH!
AND SOMETHING ONCE ALIEN TO YOU FORMS IN YOUR MIND, DOESN'T IT, HULK?

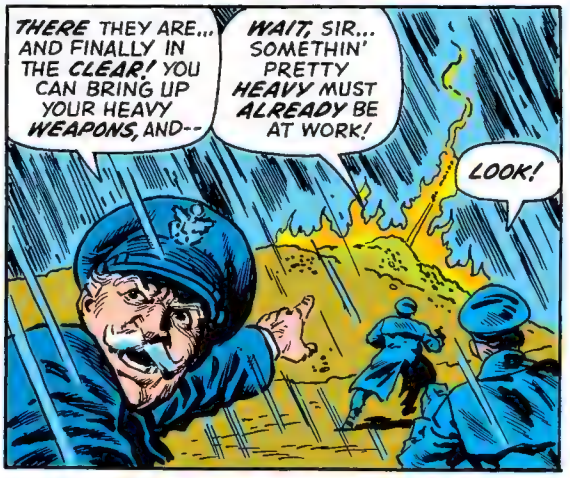

SOMETHING ALMOST AKIN TO PANIC AT THIS MONSTROSITY THAT DEFIES YOUR STRENGTH AND POWER! THEN--
HITTING DOESN'T HURT YOU. BUT WHAT ABOUT--

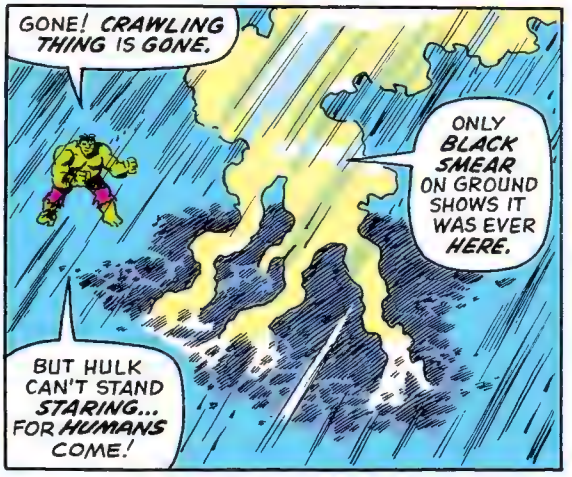

--FORCE OF FALLING BUILDING?!
JARRUM!
YES, THE IMPACT SETS YOU LOOSE, HULK. YET, OUT OF THE RUBBLE, SOMETHING FLOWS...AND COMES RELENTLESSLY ONWARD!
IT IS MAKING HULK RUN!
NOTHING HAS EVER DONE THAT. NOTHING!
BUT HOW DOES HULK FIGHT IT? CAN'T SMASH IT, CAN'T BREAK IT?
AND WHENEVER IT GRABS HULK, HULK BURNS...AND BLEEDS...AND HURTS!
WOUNDS MAKE HULK MOVE SLOW...TOO SLOW!
AARGHHH! IT HAS FOOT!
PULLING--DRAWING IN REST OF LEG! IF IT DOES, HULK IS FINISHED!
MUST HOLD ON TO FLAGPOLE... MUST!
NO GOOD! THING MOVES IN ON ALL SIDES!
BUT IF HULK GOES DOWN, IT WILL BE--FIGHTING!
SNAP!
AND FLAGPOLE WILL BE HULK'S GIANT SPEAR!
MUST DRIVE METAL INTO CREATURE'S CENTER ...MAYBE STRIKE HEART!
WUNK!
MUST HAVE A HEART...DOESN'T EVERYTHING HAVE A HEART?

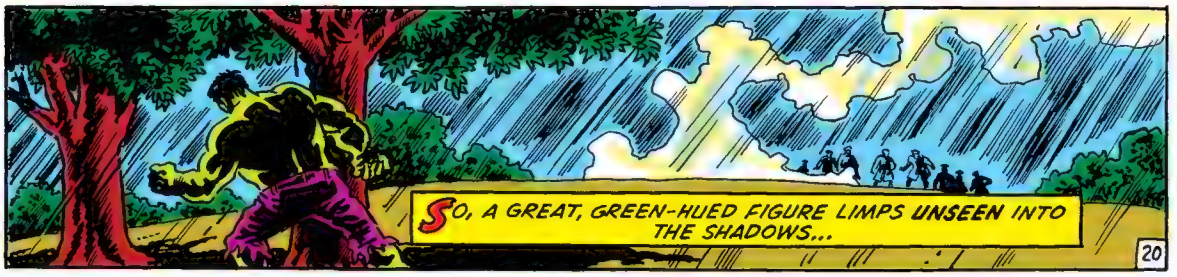

NO! IT DRAWS BACK... QUIVERS...
BUT IT DOES NOT DIE! ONLY MOVES TO COME AT HULK ONCE MORE!
WELL, HULK WAITS, CREATURE! WHATEVER HAPPENS...HULK DOES NOT RUN AGAIN!

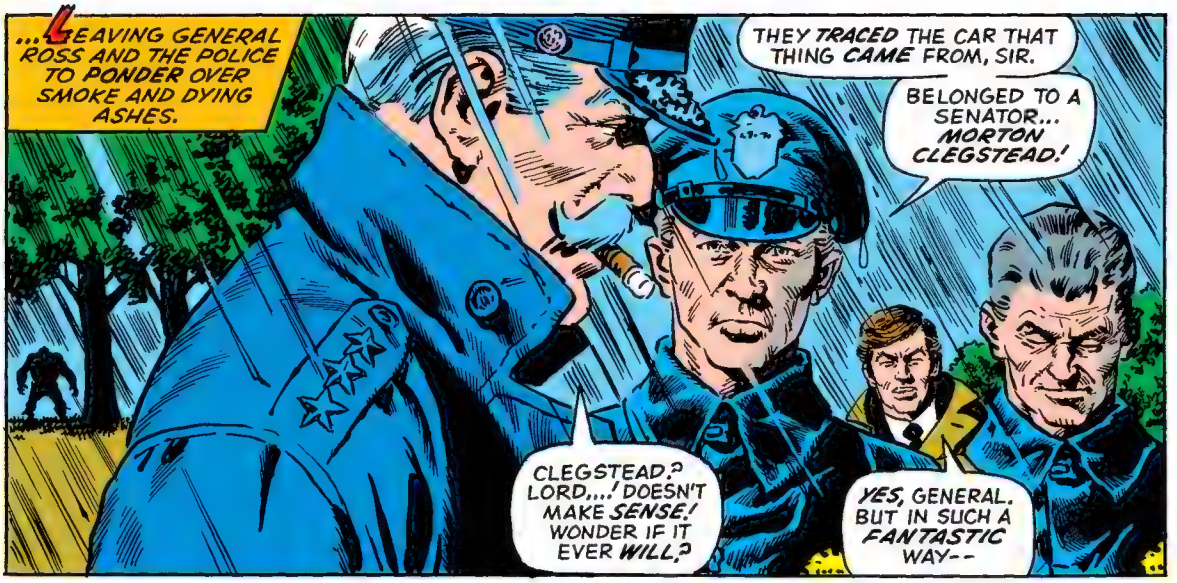

AND THUS, THIS LIGHTNING BOLT WHICH SLASHES ACROSS THE SKY...
MIGHT WELL SIGNAL THE END OF THE HULK...


EXCEPT THAT IT IS DRAWN TO A METAL FLAGPOLE THRUSTING HIGH FROM AN UNDULATING, LIVING MOUND...
A MOUND THAT IS SUDDENLY ENGULFED BY ALL THE FIRE AND FURY OF THE HEAVENS!


THERE THEY ARE... AND FINALLY IN THE CLEAR! YOU CAN BRING UP YOUR HEAVY WEAPONS, AND--
WAIT, SIR... SOMETHIN' PRETTY HEAVY MUST ALREADY BE AT WORK!
LOOK!


GONE! CRAWLING THING IS GONE.
ONLY BLACK SMEAR ON GROUND SHOWS IT WAS EVER HERE.
BUT HULK CAN'T STAND STARING... FOR HUMANS COME!


SO, A GREAT, GREEN-HUED FIGURE LIMPS UNSEEN INTO THE SHADOWS...


...LEAVING GENERAL ROSS AND THE POLICE TO PONDER OVER SMOKE AND DYING ASHES.
THEY TRACED THE CAR THAT THING CAME FROM, SIR.
BELONGED TO A SENATOR... MORTON CLEGSTEAD!
CLEGSTEAD.? LORD,...! DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! WONDER IF IT EVER WILL.?
YES, GENERAL. BUT IN SUCH A FANTASTIC WAY--

--NO ONE MAY EVER BELIEVE IT.
DUTTON! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT.?
AFTER TROUBLE WITH THE SENATOR EARLIER, I GOT A COURT ORDER TO ENTER HIS HOME--
--AND FOUND SOME AMAZING NOTEBOOKS BELONGING TO A DR. LATHROP!

GUESS THEY'RE DAMAGING TO PROJECT GREENSKIN, OR YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO SEE ME.
THE DAMAGE IS TO CLEGSTEAD. BUT THERE ARE OTHER FINDINGS ABOUT THE HULK--

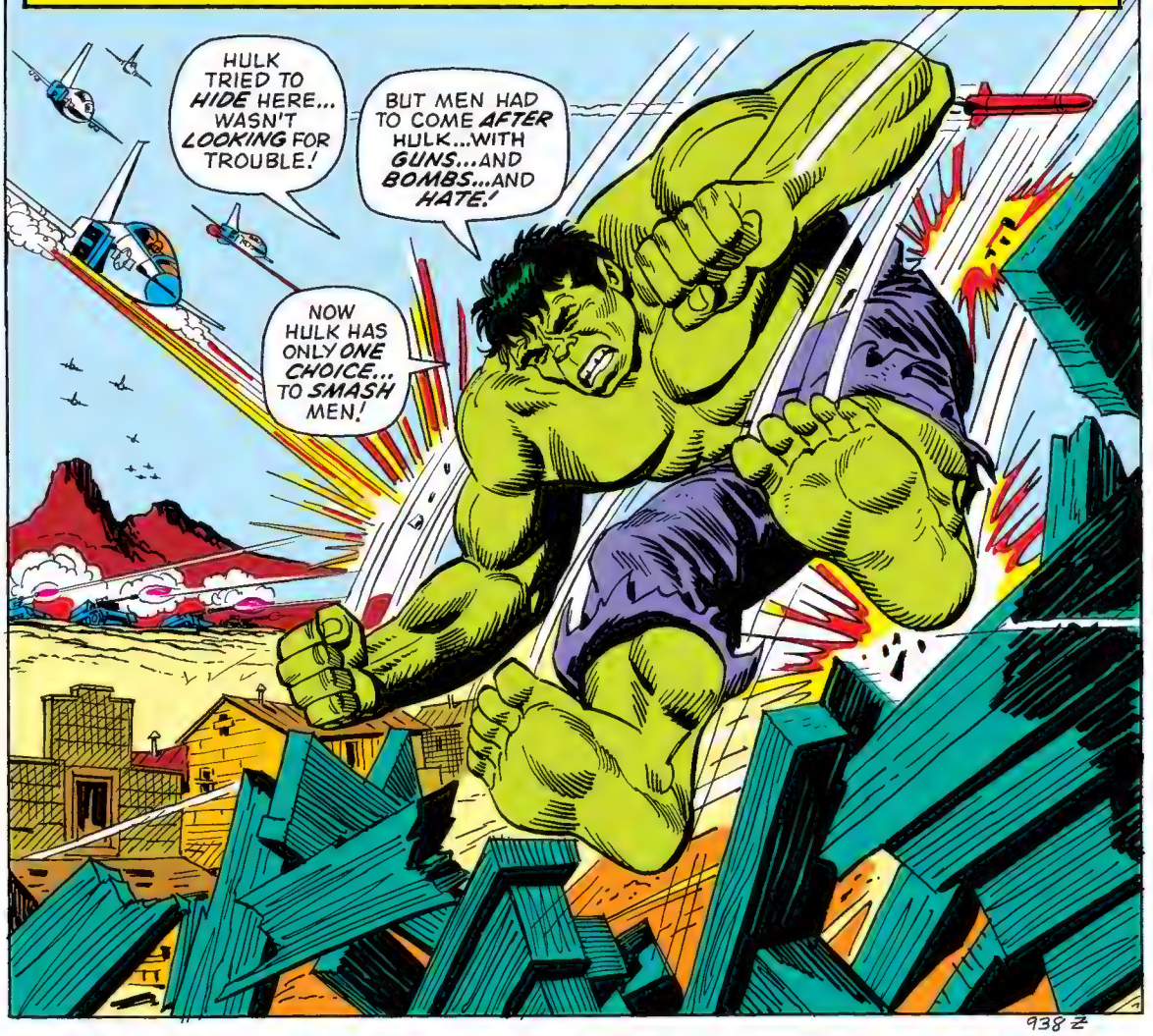
--WHICH POINT THE WAY TOWARD RESPONSIBLE MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS!
IN CURING BRUCE BANNER, YOU'LL BE HELPING MANY OTHERS AS WELL.
I CAME TO SAY-- YOU'VE GOT MY BLESSINGS ON THAT!
THANKS, DUTTON. BUT THERE'S ALWAYS ONE HITCH TO HELPING BANNER--
--THE HULK HIMSELF! AND WHERE HE'S CONCERNED--
I DON'T KNOW IF THERE ARE ENOUGH BLESSINGS!

NEXT: LIKE A BEAST AT BAY!

INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢
152
JUNE
02456
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INCREDIBLE HULK™
WHO WILL JUDGE THE HULK?

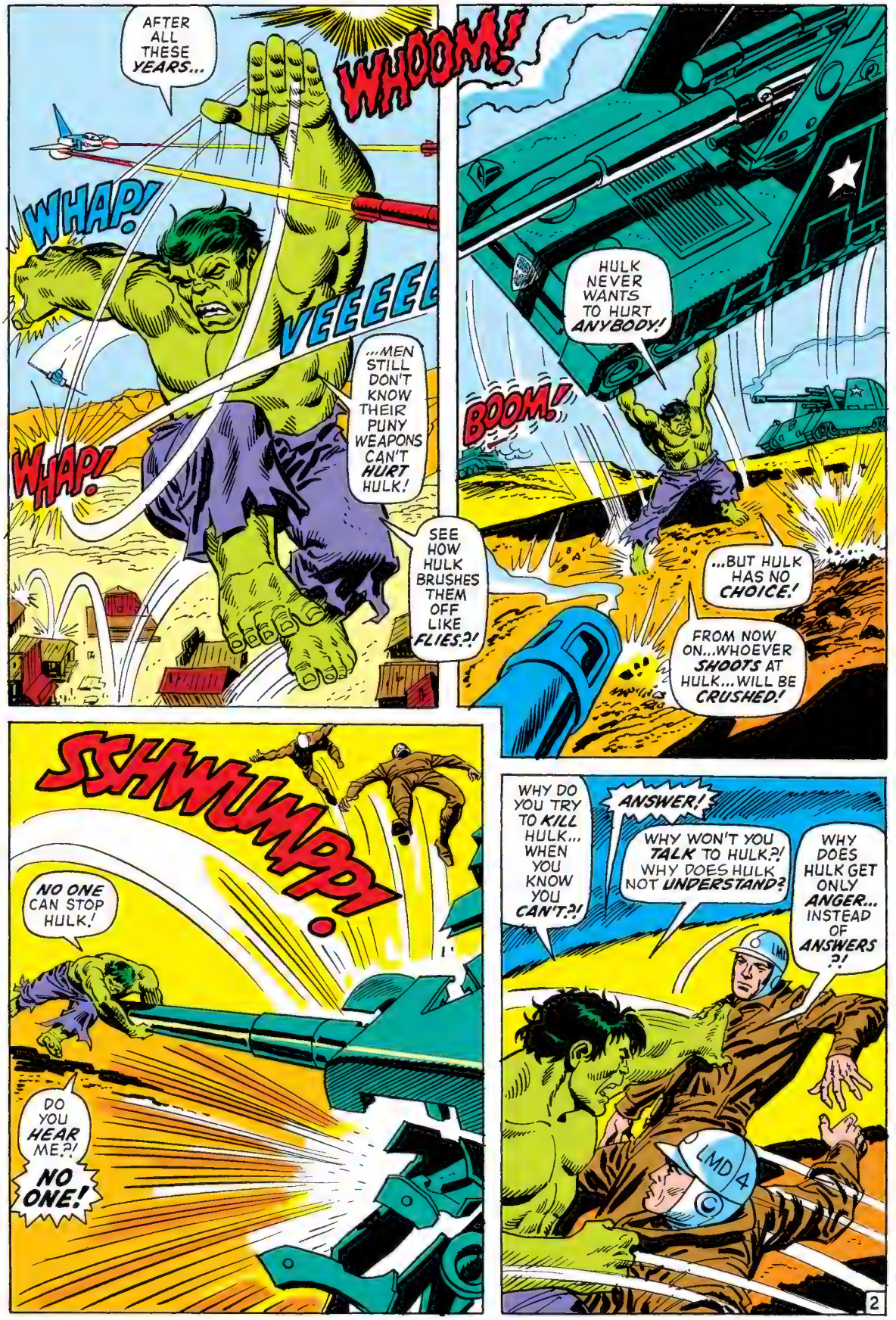
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

ONE WEEK AGO, THE HULK RAMPAGED THROUGH **WASHINGTON D.C.**, AND IN HIS WAKE, A UNITED STATES SENATOR **DISAPPEARED.** NO ONE NOW LIVING KNOWS THAT THE LAW-MAKER MET HIS DEATH BY NATURAL CAUSES--THE GOVERNMENT CAN SEE ONLY THAT, ONCE AGAIN, THE HULK AND **DISASTER** HAVE BEEN SYNONYMOUS. AND **NOW,** IN THE NEVADA DESERT, THERE WILL BE **RETRIBUTION!**


HULK TRIED TO *HIDE* HERE... WASN'T *LOOKING* FOR TROUBLE!
BUT MEN HAD TO COME *AFTER* HULK...WITH *GUNS*...AND *BOMBS*...AND *HATE!*
NOW HULK HAS ONLY *ONE CHOICE*... TO *SMASH* MEN!
938 Z

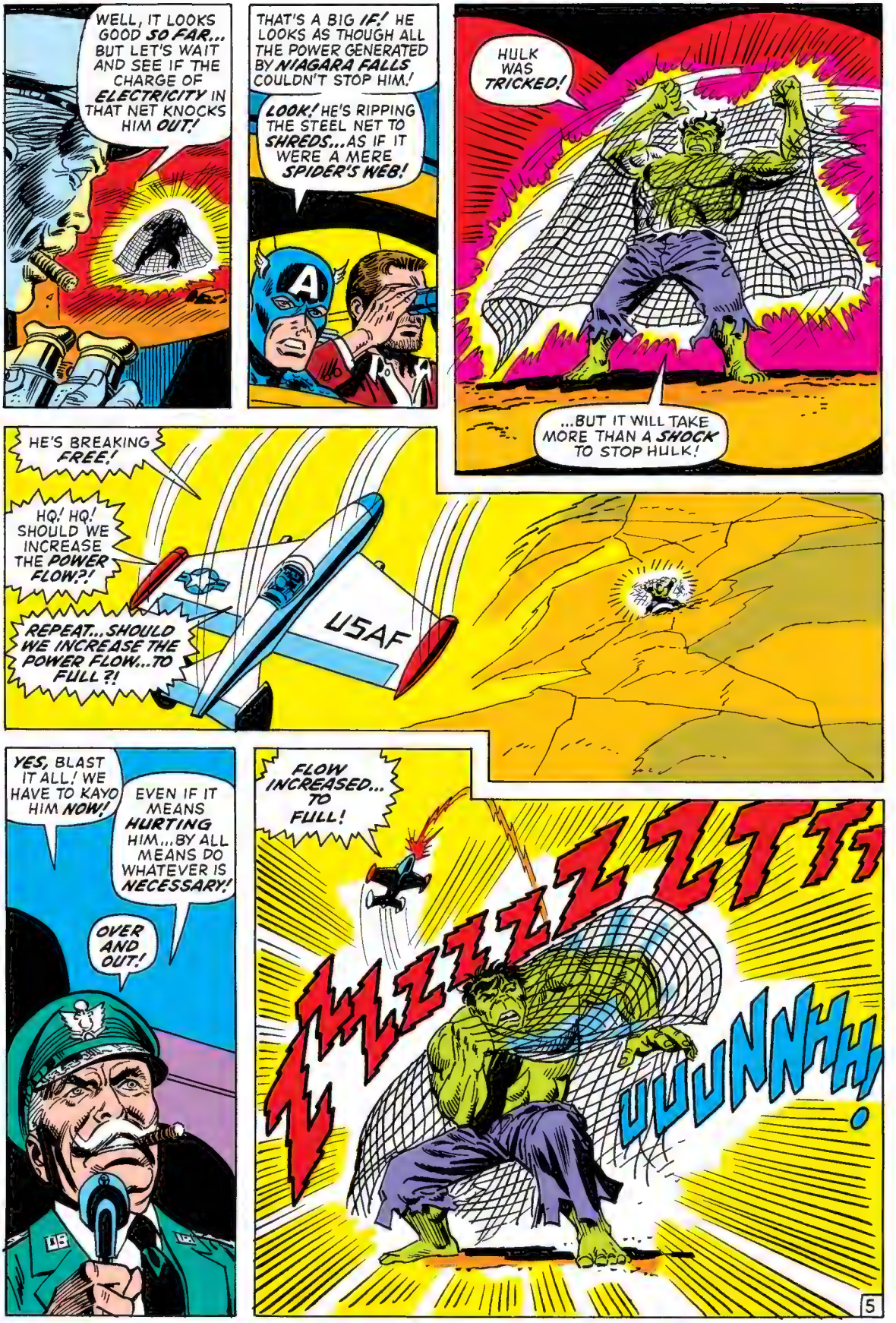
BUT WHO WILL JUDGE THE HULK?

STAN LEE PRESENTS GARY FRIEDRICH, SCRIPTER
DICK AYERS, PENCILLER
FRANK GIACOIA, INKER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER
AIDED BY *HERB TRIMPE* AND PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE BULLPEN.

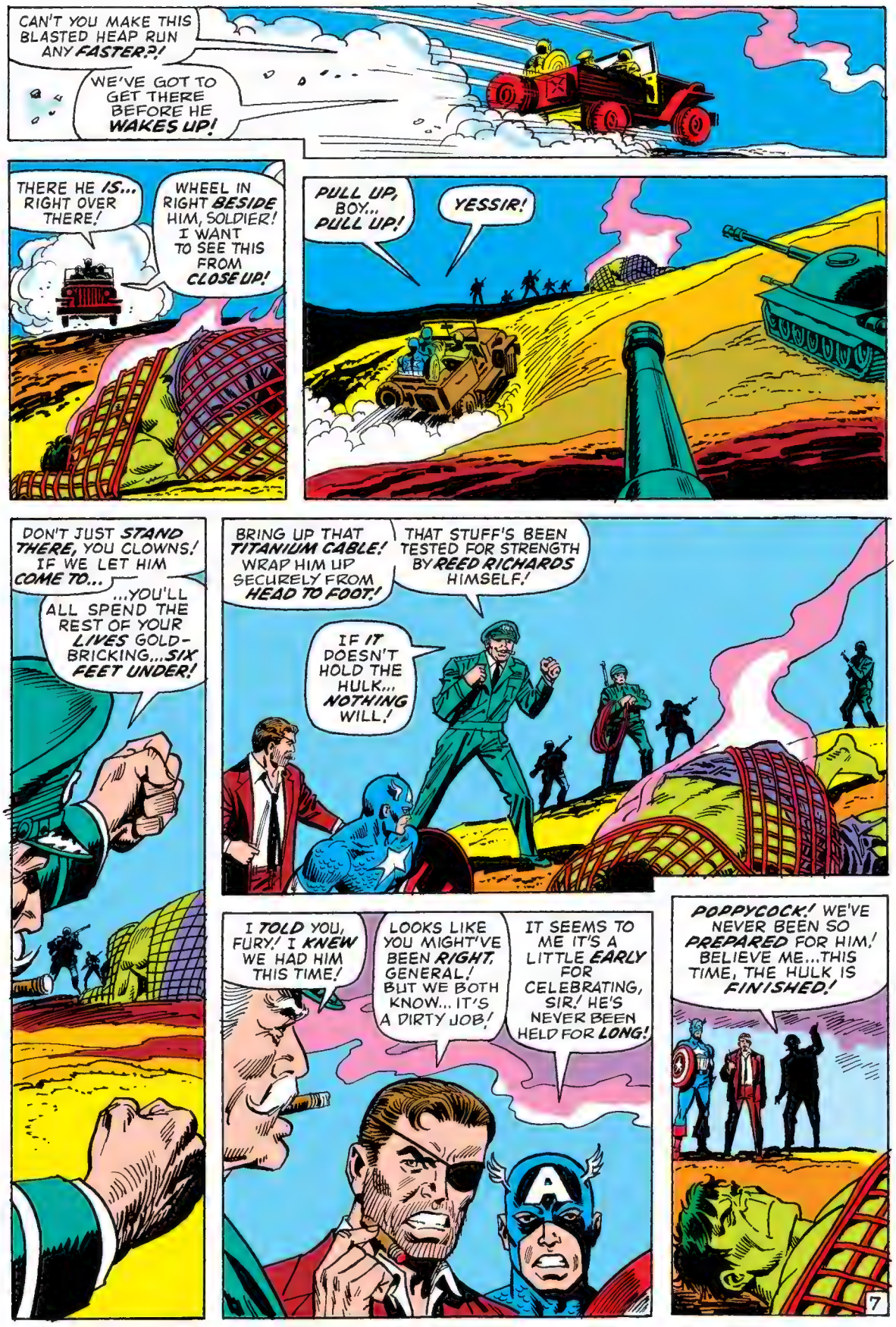

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
WHOOM!
WHAP!
VEEEEE
WHAP!
...MEN STILL DON'T KNOW THEIR PUNY WEAPONS CAN'T HURT HULK!
SEE HOW HULK BRUSHES THEM OFF LIKE FLIES?!
HULK NEVER WANTS TO HURT ANYBODY!
BOOM!
...BUT HULK HAS NO CHOICE!
FROM NOW ON...WHOEVER SHOOTS AT HULK...WILL BE CRUSHED!
SSHWUMPP!
NO ONE CAN STOP HULK!
DO YOU HEAR ME?!
NO ONE!
WHY DO YOU TRY TO KILL HULK... WHEN YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T?!
ANSWER!
WHY WON'T YOU TALK TO HULK?! WHY DOES HULK NOT UNDERSTAND?
WHY DOES HULK GET ONLY ANGER... INSTEAD OF ANSWERS?!
LMD
4
2

IT'S PERFECT, I TELL YOU! HE'S IN AN UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE!
WELL, THAT WUZ THE GENERAL IDEA, WUZN'T IT... TO GET 'IM SO MAD HE'D LET DOWN HIS GUARD?!
YOU BET YOUR EYEPATCH IT WAS... AND WE HAVE HIM RIGHT WHERE WE WANT HIM!
ATTENTION, HULK-BUSTERS UNITS ONE AND TWO!
MOVE IN ON TARGET FROM THE REAR WITH THE HB-PLANE... AND PREPARE TO DROP THE NET!
MOBILE COMMAND POST NO. 1
BUT APPROACH WITH CAUTION! WE MUST TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE!
ARE YOU SURE BOTH FURY AND I HAVE TO BE HERE, SIR?
I'M NOT WORKING FOR SHIELD NOW... AT FURY'S ORDERS.
I KNOW THAT... BUT WE ALL HAVE NEW ORDERS-- FROM MUCH HIGHER UP!
WASHINGTON WANTS THE HULK BAD NOW! IT WAS THEIR IDEA TO USE THE SHIELD LMD'S...*
...SO THERE'S NO DANGER OF OUR MEN BEING HARMED!
I TELL YOU... THIS IS THE DAY WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! WE MAY FINALLY BE ABLE TO CAPTURE THE HULK... AND CURE HIM!
*LIFE MODEL DECOY, AS IF YA DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW! --STAN.
ALWAYS THE SAME! EVERYONE HATES HULK... BUT NO ONE SAYS WHY!
IF THAT'S THE WAY MEN WANT IT... THAT'S FINE WITH HULK!
HULK WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING IN HIS WAY!
HULKBUSTER ONE TO HQ! HOVERING OVER TARGET... READY TO DROP PARA-NET!
--AND HULK MEANS WHAT HE SAYS!
3

DROP PARA-NET!
USAF
PARA-NET... AWAY!
WHA...?!
AARRGGGHH!
HTTTTTTT!

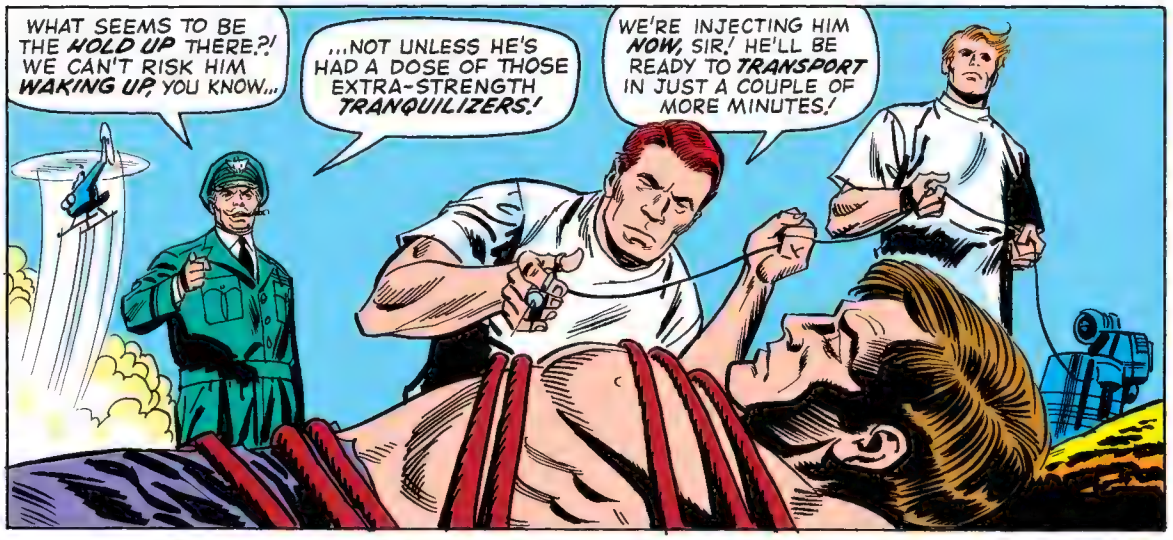

WELL, IT LOOKS GOOD SO FAR... BUT LET'S WAIT AND SEE IF THE CHARGE OF ELECTRICITY IN THAT NET KNOCKS HIM OUT!
THAT'S A BIG IF! HE LOOKS AS THOUGH ALL THE POWER GENERATED BY NIAGARA FALLS COULDN'T STOP HIM!
LOOK! HE'S RIPPING THE STEEL NET TO SHREDS...AS IF IT WERE A MERE SPIDER'S WEB!
HULK WAS TRICKED!
...BUT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A SHOCK TO STOP HULK!
HE'S BREAKING FREE!
HQ! HQ! SHOULD WE INCREASE THE POWER FLOW?!
REPEAT...SHOULD WE INCREASE THE POWER FLOW...TO FULL?!
USAF
YES, BLAST IT ALL! WE HAVE TO KAYO HIM NOW!
EVEN IF IT MEANS HURTING HIM...BY ALL MEANS DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY!
OVER AND OUT!
FLOW INCREASED... TO FULL!
ZZZZZZTT!
UUUNNH!
5

GETTING... WEAKER! CAN'T... BREAK FREE!
HQ! HQ! TARGET SUCCUMBING TO INCREASED POWER! AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS!
KEEP THE JUICE FLOWING, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
HE'S ON HIS KNEES ALREADY... AND IN ANOTHER FEW MOMENTS...
...HE'LL BE TOTALLY HELPLESS!
COME ON, GENTLEMEN! I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS MOMENT...
...AND I WANT TO BE RIGHT ON THE SCENE WHEN THE HULK FALLS!
WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YA, GENERAL!
NET... HURTING HULK... BUT CAN'T... TURN LOOSE OF IT!
CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT... ANYMORE! BLACKING OUT! IS THIS...
...THE END?!
CUT POWER! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! HULKBUSTERS... MOVE IN AND SECURE TARGET!
6.

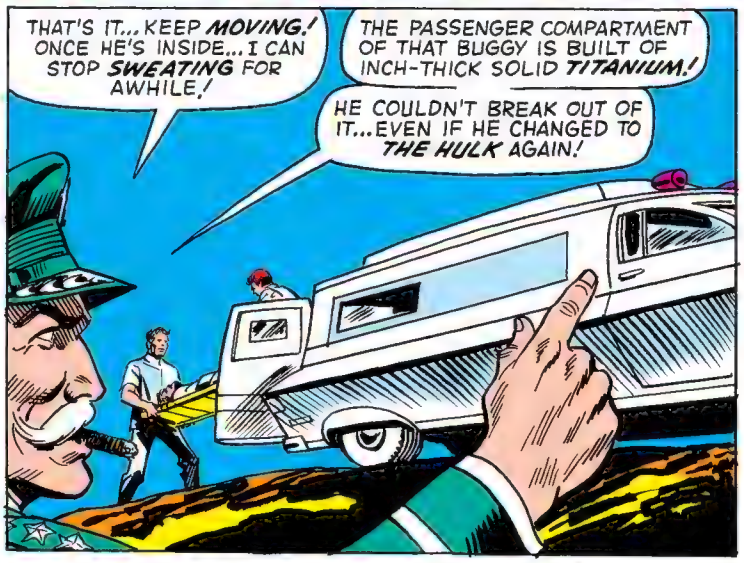

CAN'T YOU MAKE THIS BLASTED HEAP RUN ANY FASTER?!
WE'VE GOT TO GET THERE BEFORE HE WAKES UP!
THERE HE IS... RIGHT OVER THERE!
WHEEL IN RIGHT BESIDE HIM, SOLDIER! I WANT TO SEE THIS FROM CLOSE UP!
PULL UP, BOY... PULL UP!
YESSIR!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU CLOWNS! IF WE LET HIM COME TO...
...YOU'LL ALL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIVES GOLD-BRICKING... SIX FEET UNDER!
BRING UP THAT TITANIUM CABLE! WRAP HIM UP SECURELY FROM HEAD TO FOOT!
THAT STUFF'S BEEN TESTED FOR STRENGTH BY REED RICHARDS HIMSELF!
IF IT DOESN'T HOLD THE HULK... NOTHING WILL!
I TOLD YOU, FURY! I KNEW WE HAD HIM THIS TIME!
LOOKS LIKE YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN RIGHT, GENERAL! BUT WE BOTH KNOW... IT'S A DIRTY JOB!
IT SEEMS TO ME IT'S A LITTLE EARLY FOR CELEBRATING, SIR! HE'S NEVER BEEN HELD FOR LONG!
POPPYCOCK! WE'VE NEVER BEEN SO PREPARED FOR HIM! BELIEVE ME...THIS TIME, THE HULK IS FINISHED!

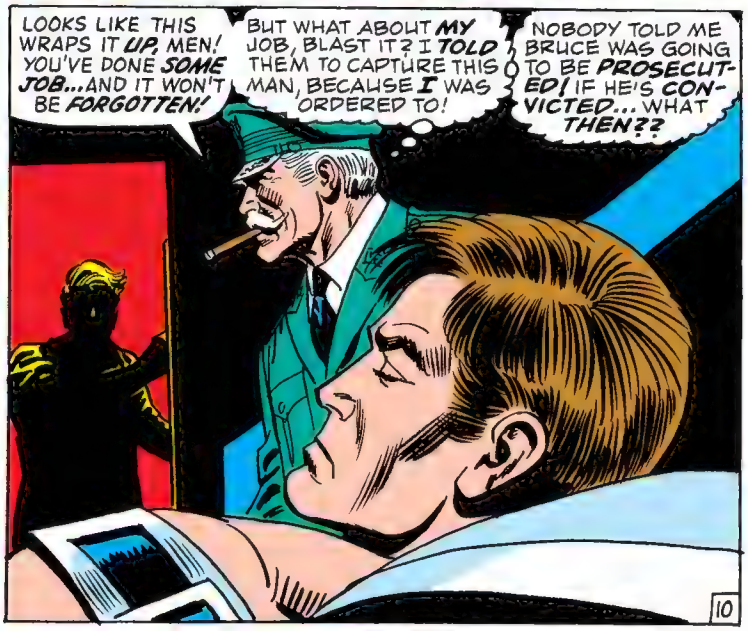
SO LET ME MAKE ONE THING PERFECTLY CLEAR, SPIRO...
RRJNGG!
WHA...?!
I LEFT WORD THAT WE WEREN'T TO BE DISTURBED!
WHAT IS IT?! IT HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION WITH...
...ROSS... THE HULK?! BY ALL MEANS...PUT HIM ON!
GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. PRESIDENT! SORRY TO DISTURB YOU...
...BUT WE'VE CARRIED OUT YOUR ORDERS, SIR!
WE'VE CAPTURED THE HULK!
ARE YOU SURE?! HAVE YOU TAKEN ALL THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS?!
THEN THERE'S NO CHANCE HE CAN ESCAPE?!
THAT'S EXCELLENT, GENERAL! THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OWE YOU A GREAT DEBT!
THINK NOTHING OF IT, MR. PRESIDENT! I'M ONLY SORRY IT TOOK US SO LONG TO GET THE JOB DONE!
WE'LL HOLD HIM IN THE HULK-BUSTERS DETENTION CENTER AND AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM YOU!
FINE! I'LL GET BACK TO YOU AS SOON AS WE DECIDE WHAT COURSE TO TAKE IN THE LINE OF PROSECUTION!
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE PROPER MEASURES TO TAKE WITHIN A FEW HOURS!
AND AGAIN, THE NATION IS GRATEFUL TO YOU...FOR ELIMINATING THE DREAD MENACE CALLED THE HULK!

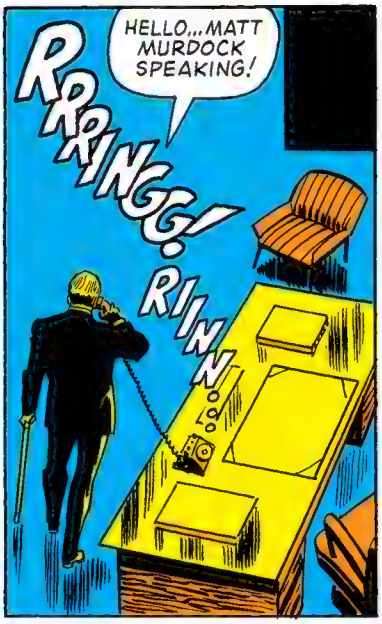
PROSECUTION? BUT I DIDN'T...
GENERAL! LOOK!
THINGS JUST WON'T WORK OUT! WE CHASED A MONSTER...
BUT IN A STATE OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS... HIS MUSCLES RELAX... AND HIS BRAIN BECOMES INACTIVE...
...THUS BRINGING ON THE STRANGE TRANSFORMATION...
WHICH TURNS A RAMPAGING MENACE ...INTO NOTHING MORE THAN AN ORDINARY MAN!
GET THE DOCTORS IN HERE! HE HAS TO BE FULLY TRANQUILIZED.. IMMEDIATELY!
SPEAKIN' OF IMMEDIATELY... I DON'T LIKE STANDIN' TOO CLOSE TO WING-HEAD HERE...AND I THINK I'M GONNA CUT OUT!
FURY'S NOT QUITE HIMSELF THESE DAYS, GENERAL! * I APOLOGIZE FOR HIM!
IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU, SIR!
WHA...?! OH, YES... CERTAINLY! WELL, GOOD LUCK...AND THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS MINE!
* SEE WHY IN CAP'S OWN BOOK -- S.


WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE HOLD UP THERE?! WE CAN'T RISK HIM WAKING UP, YOU KNOW...
...NOT UNLESS HE'S HAD A DOSE OF THOSE EXTRA-STRENGTH TRANQUILIZERS!
WE'RE INJECTING HIM NOW, SIR! HE'LL BE READY TO TRANSPORT IN JUST A COUPLE OF MORE MINUTES!

ALL RIGHT! STRAP HIM DOWN TIGHT! EVEN UNDER HEAVY SEDATION... HE MIGHT TRY TO ESCAPE!
HERE COMES THE SPECIAL AMBULANCE! JUST GET HIM IN THERE UNCONSCIOUS...
...AND THERE'LL BE NO CHANCE AT ALL OF HIS GETTING AWAY!

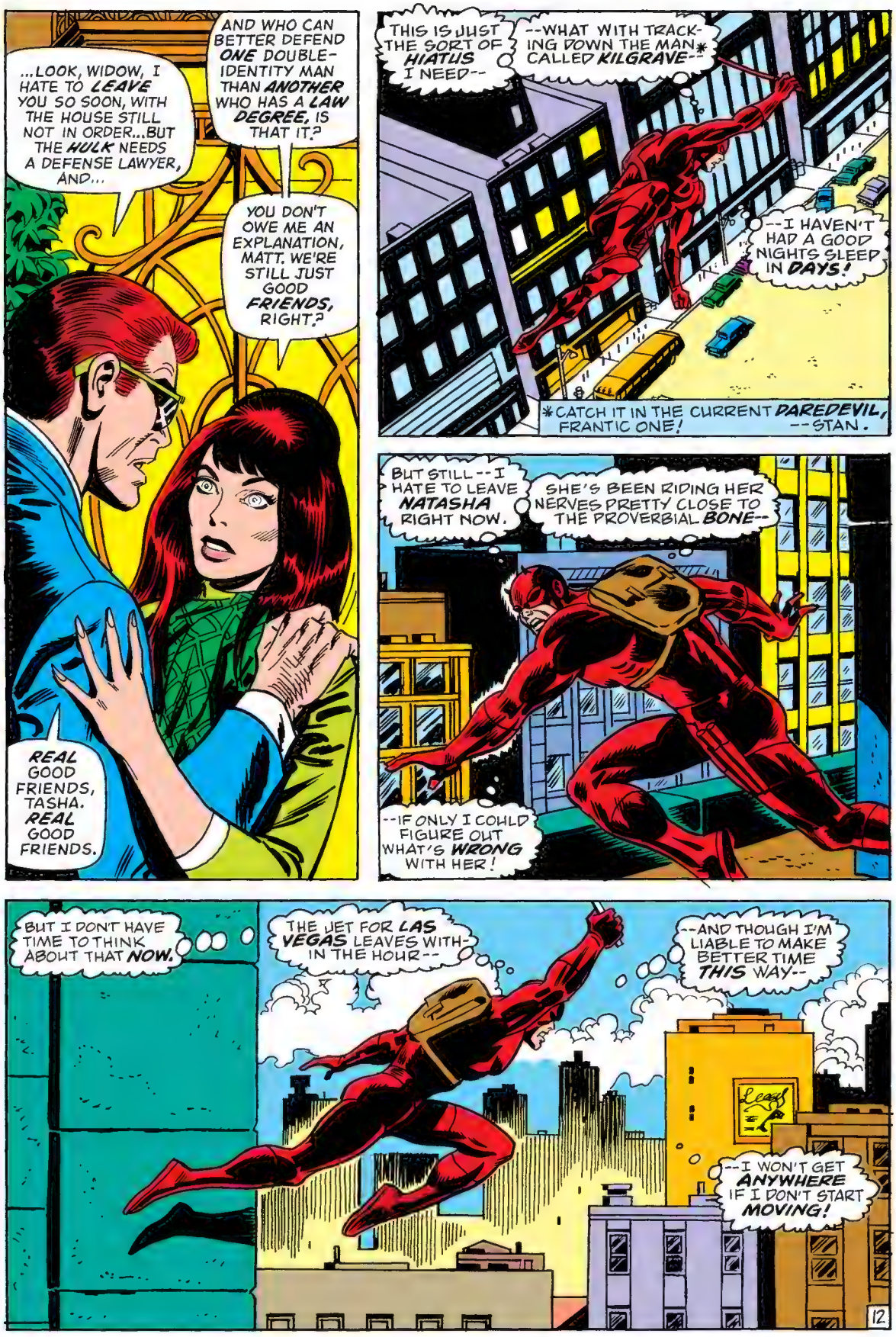

THAT'S IT... KEEP MOVING! ONCE HE'S INSIDE... I CAN STOP SWEATING FOR AWHILE!
THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT OF THAT BUGGY IS BUILT OF INCH-THICK SOLID TITANIUM!
HE COULDN'T BREAK OUT OF IT... EVEN IF HE CHANGED TO THE HULK AGAIN!


LOOKS LIKE THIS WRAPS IT UP, MEN! YOU'VE DONE SOME JOB... AND IT WON'T BE FORGOTTEN!
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY JOB, BLAST IT? I TOLD THEM TO CAPTURE THIS MAN, BECAUSE I WAS ORDERED TO!
NOBODY TOLD ME BRUCE WAS GOING TO BE PROSECUTED! IF HE'S CONVICTED... WHAT THEN??

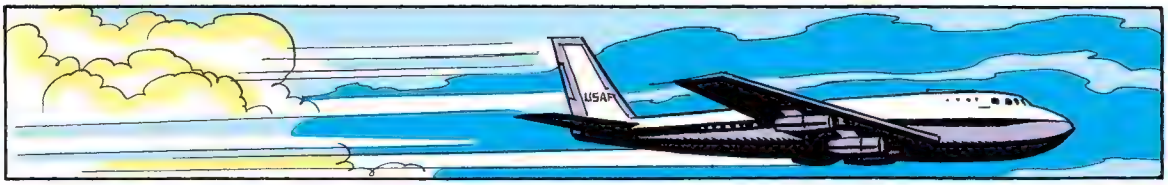


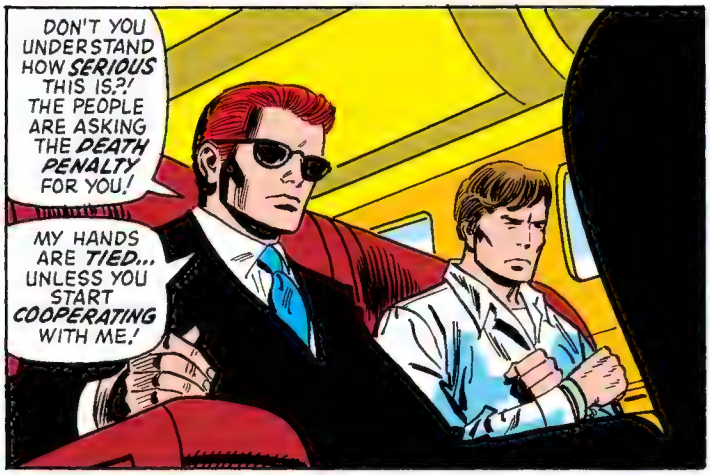
CHAPTER TWO:

...DEFENDER OF THE DOOMED!


...LOOK, WIDOW, I HATE TO LEAVE YOU SO SOON, WITH THE HOUSE STILL NOT IN ORDER...BUT THE HULK NEEDS A DEFENSE LAWYER, AND...
AND WHO CAN BETTER DEFEND ONE DOUBLE-IDENTITY MAN THAN ANOTHER WHO HAS A LAW DEGREE, IS THAT IT?
YOU DON'T OWE ME AN EXPLANATION, MATT. WE'RE STILL JUST GOOD FRIENDS, RIGHT?
REAL GOOD FRIENDS, TASHA. REAL GOOD FRIENDS.
THIS IS JUST THE SORT OF HIATUS I NEED--
--WHAT WITH TRACKING DOWN THE MAN* CALLED KILGRAVE--
--I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP IN DAYS!
*CATCH IT IN THE CURRENT DAREDEVIL, FRANTIC ONE! --STAN.
BUT STILL--I HATE TO LEAVE NATASHA RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S BEEN RIDING HER NERVES PRETTY CLOSE TO THE PROVERBIAL BONE--
--IF ONLY I COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER!
BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT NOW.
THE JET FOR LAS VEGAS LEAVES WITHIN THE HOUR--
--AND THOUGH I'M LIABLE TO MAKE BETTER TIME THIS WAY--
--I WON'T GET ANYWHERE IF I DON'T START MOVING!
12

SO HE'S CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY.. TO DESTROY PUBLIC PROPERTY AND ENDANGER HUMAN LIVES!
BUT WHAT KIND OF CHARGE IS THAT?! SURELY THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOMETHING STRONGER?
THEY'VE GOT ALL THEY NEED... AND I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT IT!
THAT GREEN GOON'S BEEN STOMPING AROUND LOOSE LONG ENOUGH... AND I HOPE THEY PUT HIM AWAY FOR KEEPS!
WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW! FOR ONCE WE AGREE ON SOMETHIN', LITTLE BUDDY,..
...EXCEPT I WISH THEY'D JUST TURN THE BUM OVER TO ME... SO I COULD CLOBBER 'IM!
WHY DON'T BOTH OF YOU PUT AWAY YOUR PERSONAL PREJUDICES... AND CONSIDER THE CASE AS IT REALLY IS?!
AS BRUCE BANNER, THE MAN IS THE MOST BRILLIANT GAMMA-PHYSICIST IN THE NATION!
IT'S HARDLY HIS FAULT THAT, THROUGH A FREAK ACCIDENT, HE WAS DOOMED TO SPEND A HORRIBLE PORTION OF HIS LIFE AS THE HULK!
AND I, FOR ONE INTEND TO OFFER MY TESTIMONY IN BANNER'S BEHALF!
REED, I LOVE YOU-- AND YOU'RE RIGHT! BRUCE IS FAR TOO BRILLIANT TO BE PUT AWAY FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!
I GUESS SO...! HE NEEDS HELP, AND WE SHOULD ALL DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO SEE THAT HE GETS IT!
AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHAT JUSTICE IS REALLY ABOUT!
13

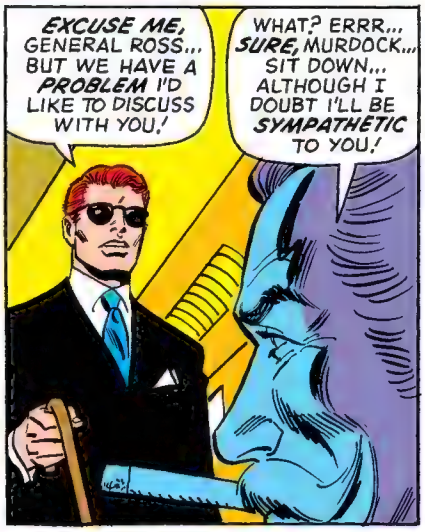

USAF


DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS THIS IS,?! THE PEOPLE ARE ASKING THE DEATH PENALTY FOR YOU!
MY HANDS ARE TIED... UNLESS YOU START COOPERATING WITH ME!

IT... MAKES NO DIFFERENCE NOW! I DESERVE TO DIE!
I'VE CAUSED... SO MUCH GRIEF... DONE SO MUCH DAMAGE!
THE CHAIR SEEMS ALMOST LIKE... A RELIEF... TO ME!

ALL RIGHT... IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT!
I ONLY HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE BUYING YOURSELF A ONE-WAY TICKET!

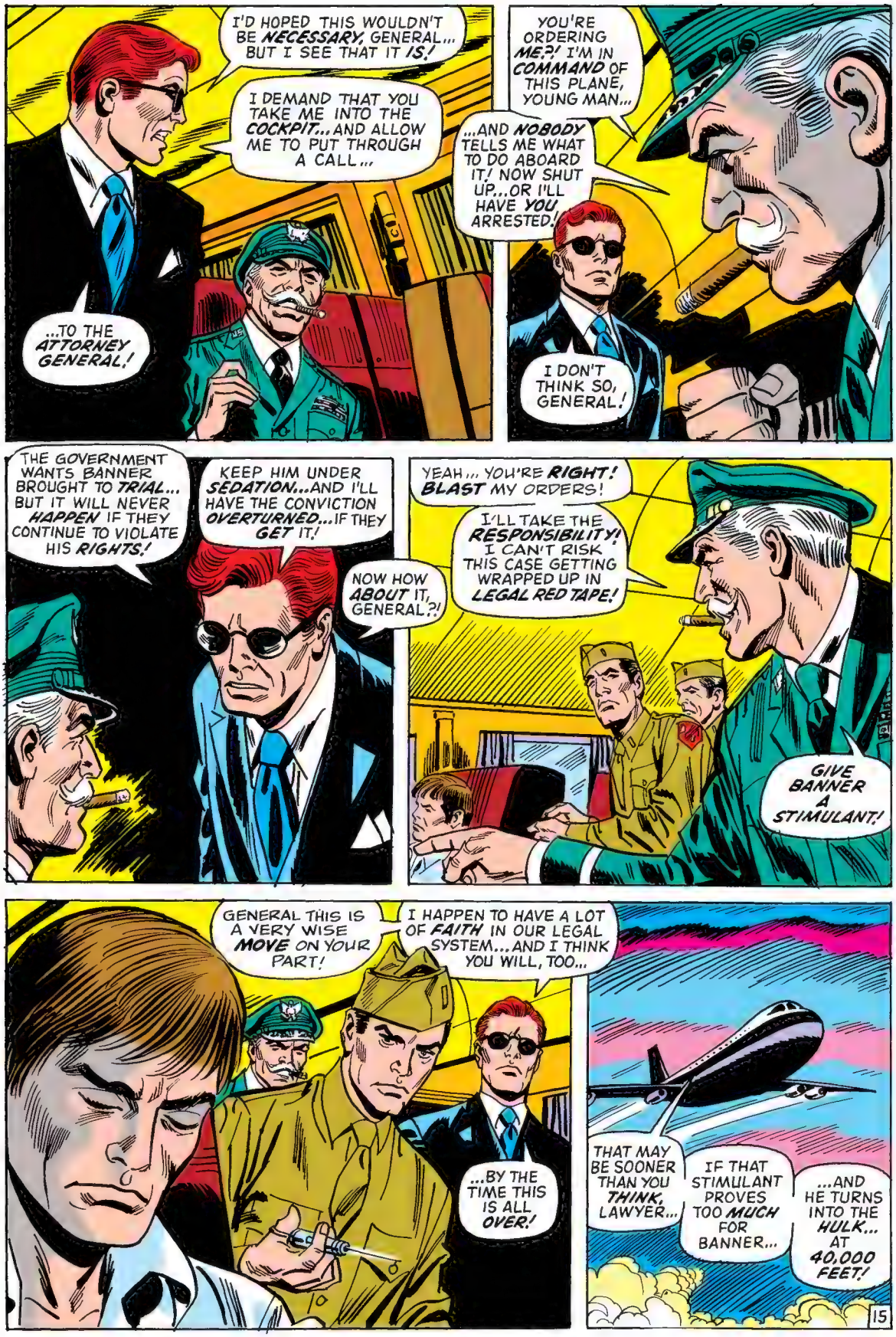
I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO HIM! HE'S UNDER SUCH HEAVY SEDATION...
...HE HAS NO IDEA OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM!


EXCUSE ME, GENERAL ROSS... BUT WE HAVE A PROBLEM I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU!
WHAT? ERRR... SURE, MURDOCK... SIT DOWN... ALTHOUGH I DOUBT I'LL BE SYMPATHETIC TO YOU!

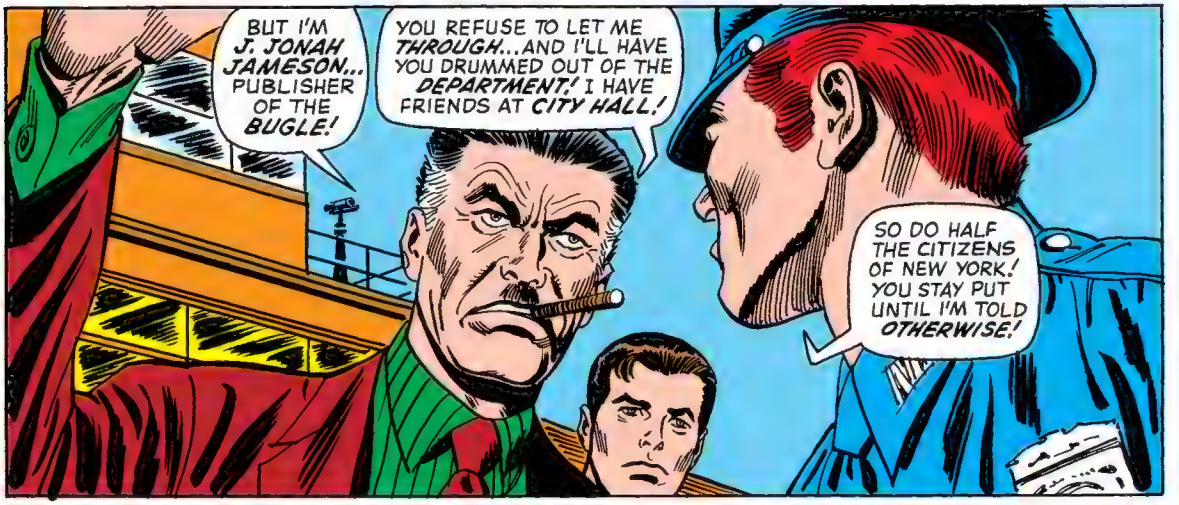
I ASSUMED THAT WOULD BE YOUR ATTITUDE... HOWEVER, I STILL FEEL COMPELLED TO ASK YOU...
...IF THERE ISN'T SOME WAY YOU CAN REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF SEDATION BEING GIVEN TO MY CLIENT!

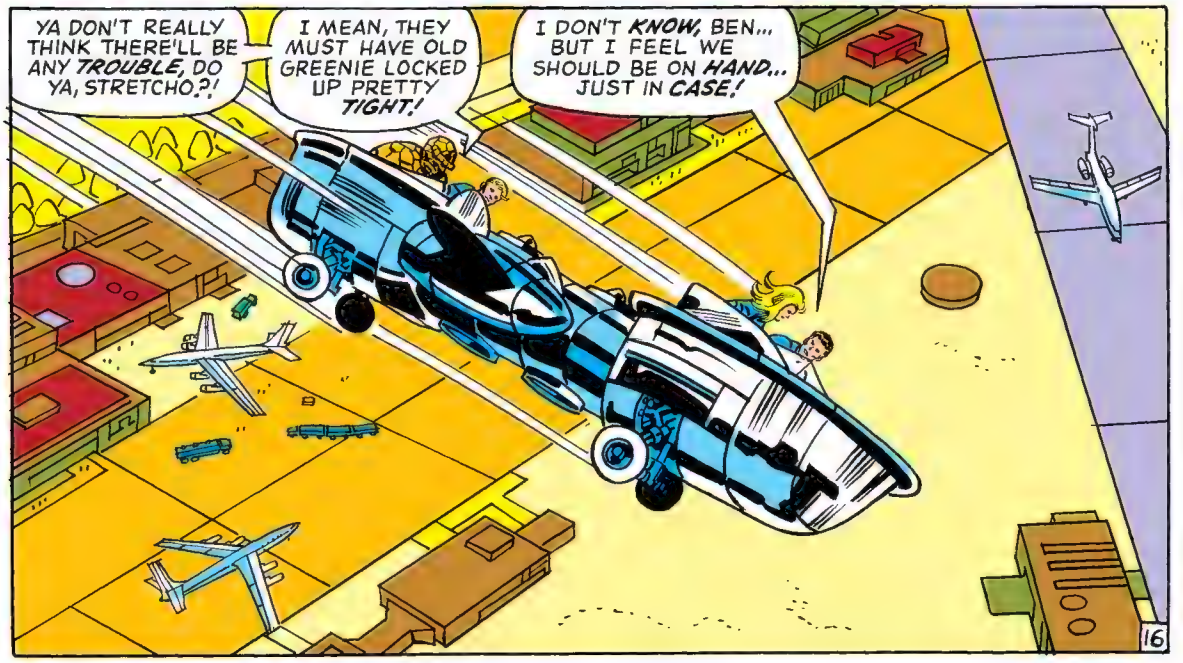
REDUCE?! NOW THAT'S THE BEST ONE I'VE HEARD ALL DAY!
SURE WE'LL REDUCE IT... THEN LET HIS BLOOD PRESSURE GET GOING... THEN LET HIM TURN INTO THE HULK AGAIN...

THE ONLY WAY HIS SEDATION WILL BE REDUCED IS WHEN I GET ORDERS TO THAT EFFECT!
YOU'RE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE, MISTER! I HAVE TO GET BRUCE BANNER TO NEW YORK... AND I WILL!
GO BACK WITH YOUR CLIENT AND SIT DOWN!


I'D HOPED THIS WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY, GENERAL... BUT I SEE THAT IT IS!
I DEMAND THAT YOU TAKE ME INTO THE COCKPIT... AND ALLOW ME TO PUT THROUGH A CALL...
...TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL!
YOU'RE ORDERING ME?! I'M IN COMMAND OF THIS PLANE, YOUNG MAN...
...AND NOBODY TELLS ME WHAT TO DO ABOARD IT! NOW SHUT UP...OR I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED!
I DON'T THINK SO, GENERAL!
THE GOVERNMENT WANTS BANNER BROUGHT TO TRIAL... BUT IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN IF THEY CONTINUE TO VIOLATE HIS RIGHTS!
KEEP HIM UNDER SEDATION...AND I'LL HAVE THE CONVICTION OVERTURNED...IF THEY GET IT!
NOW HOW ABOUT IT, GENERAL?!
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT! BLAST MY ORDERS!
I'LL TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY! I CAN'T RISK THIS CASE GETTING WRAPPED UP IN LEGAL RED TAPE!
GIVE BANNER A STIMULANT!
GENERAL THIS IS A VERY WISE MOVE ON YOUR PART!
I HAPPEN TO HAVE A LOT OF FAITH IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM... AND I THINK YOU WILL, TOO...
...BY THE TIME THIS IS ALL OVER!
THAT MAY BE SOONER THAN YOU THINK, LAWYER...
IF THAT STIMULANT PROVES TOO MUCH FOR BANNER...
...AND HE TURNS INTO THE HULK... AT 40,000 FEET!

BUT, BEFORE WE FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN ABOARD THE AIR FORCE 747 CARRYING THE HULK...
...LET'S LOOK IN ON NEW YORK'S JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WHERE THE MOST ELABORATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN HISTORY ARE BEING MADE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE GREEN-SKINNED CAPTIVE!


BUT I'M J. JONAH JAMESON... PUBLISHER OF THE BUGLE!
YOU REFUSE TO LET ME THROUGH...AND I'LL HAVE YOU DRUMMED OUT OF THE DEPARTMENT! I HAVE FRIENDS AT CITY HALL!
SO DO HALF THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK! YOU STAY PUT UNTIL I'M TOLD OTHERWISE!


YA DON'T REALLY THINK THERE'LL BE ANY TROUBLE, DO YA, STRETCHO?!
I MEAN, THEY MUST HAVE OLD GREENIE LOCKED UP PRETTY TIGHT!
I DON'T KNOW, BEN... BUT I FEEL WE SHOULD BE ON HAND... JUST IN CASE!

MEANWHILE...
HE'S SNAPPING OUT OF IT! EXCUSE ME... I NEED TO TALK TO HIM!
BRUCE... HOW DO YOU FEEL? ARE THE EFFECTS OF THE SEDATIVE WEARING OFF?!
YES... I THINK SO! MY HEAD'S A LOT CLEARER NOW... NOT NEARLY AS DROWSY AS I WAS!
THAT INJECTION I RECEIVED... WAS IT A STIMULANT?!
YES, A FAIRLY STRONG ONE... BUT IT WAS NECESSARY!
YOU WEREN'T YOURSELF UNDER THE EFFECTS OF THE SEDATIVE! IT WAS SO I COULD TALK WITH YOU!
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT... BUT WHY TAKE THE RISK?!
WITHOUT THE SEDATIVES... I COULD CHANGE BACK INTO THE HULK... AND POSSIBLY DESTROY THIS AIRCRAFT IN MID-AIR!
NO! DON'T EVEN CONSIDER THAT POSSIBILITY... BECAUSE AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN CALM... IT CAN'T HAPPEN!
BUT I CAN'T BE CALM... NOT WITH WHAT'S FACING ME! GOD HELP US... I'M STARTING TO CHANGE!
QUICK... GIVE HIM THE SEDATIVE!
YES... YOU MUST... BEFORE IT'S... TOO LATE!

ARE YOU MAD?! HE'S CHANGING TO THE HULK!
NO! YOU MUSTN'T SEDATE HIM AGAIN! I WON'T LET YOU!
GET AWAY, MAN...OR YOU'LL GET US ALL KILLED!
PULL HIM OFF! HE'S GONE OUT OF HIS SKULL!
YOU'RE WRONG! I CAN HANDLE HIM...IF ONLY YOU'LL...
IT'S TOO LATE!
HE'S BECOME THE HULK AGAIN!

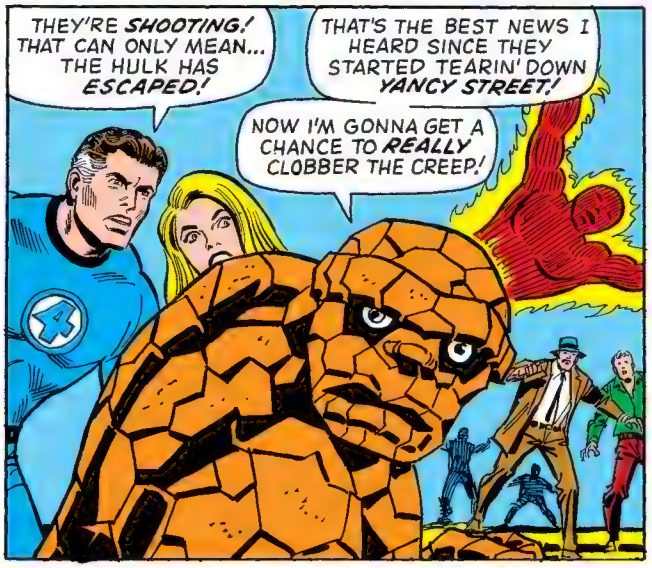
QUICK...GET TO THE FRONT COMPARTMENT AND SEAL IT!
THEN WE CAN PRAY HE DOESN'T TEAR THE PLANE APART BEFORE WE LAND!
CAN'T GIVE UP! THIS IS MY FAULT...AND I HAVE TO TRY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
COME ON, YOU FOOL! HE'LL TEAR YOU TO SHREDS!
NO! I HAVE TO TALK TO HIM...TRY TO REASON WITH HIM!
GET OUT OF MY WAY! NOTHING CAN STOP HULK FROM GETTING ROSS!
THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST... AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE A KILLER!
I THINK YOU'RE CONFUSED... AND THAT YOU NEED HELP! WELL, I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
YOU LIE...LIKE ALL MEN LIE! EVERYONE HATES HULK...TRIES TO TRICK HULK!
YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM REST OF THEM!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! WOULD I BE STANDING HERE LIKE THIS... RISKING MY LIFE... IF I WEREN'T YOUR FRIEND?!
HE'S STALLING HIM... IF ONLY HE CAN KEEP IT UP FOR A LITTLE LONGER!
WE'LL BE LANDING IN A FEW MORE SECONDS... AND ONCE WE'RE ON THE GROUND...
...WE'LL BE EQUIPPED TO HANDLE HIM!
HERE...TAKE MY HAND! THAT'S WHAT MEN DO... TO SHOW FRIENDSHIP!
IF YOU REALLY WANT A FRIEND...YOU HAVE ONE! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TAKE MY HAND!
HOW ABOUT IT?!

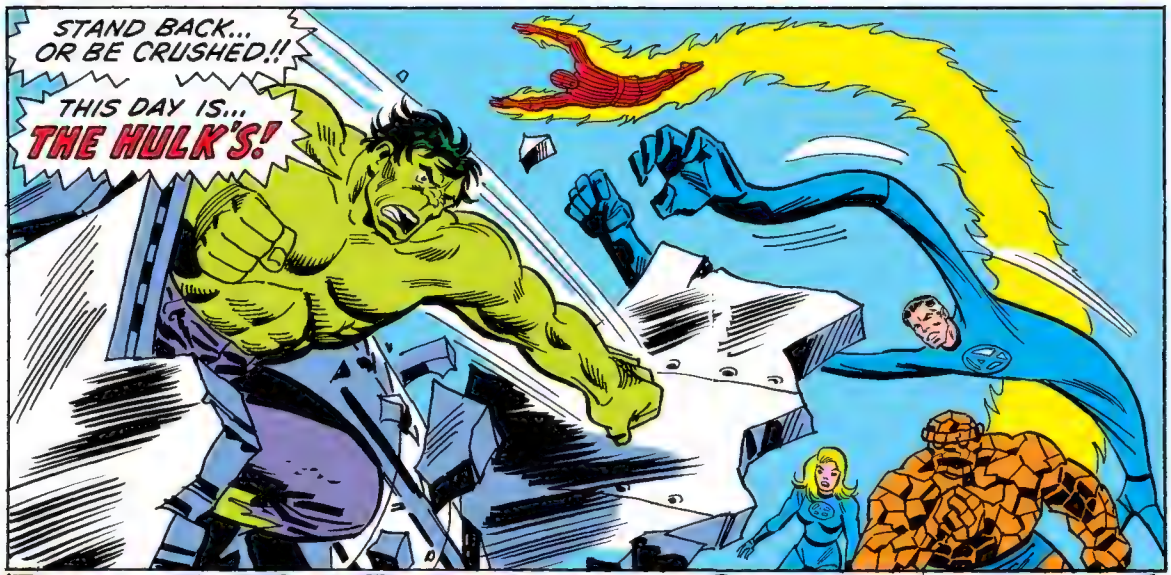
U.S.A.F.
WE'RE DOWN, MURDOCK! NOW GET THE DEVIL OUT OF HERE...
...AND LET SHIELD HANDLE THAT MONSTER! YOU DID A GREAT JOB...BUT IT'S FINISHED NOW!
SO YOU WERE LYING TO HULK, JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!
NO...THIS IS A MISTAKE! LISTEN TO ME...GIVE ME TIME...AND I PROMISE I'LL STRAIGHTEN IT OUT!
HULK IS TIRED OF MEN'S PROMISES! NOW HULK WILL SMASH!

YOU SAID YOU WERE HULK'S FRIEND...AND THEN TRICKED ME!
NOW HULK WILL MAKE YOU PAY!
IT'S NO USE NOW! HE'S GONE COMPLETELY BERSERK! NOTHING FOR ME TO DO BUT GET OUT... IF I CAN!

SHIELD FORCE SEVEN AT YOUR DISPOSAL, GENERAL! SHALL WE COMMENCE FIRING?!
NOT YET! THE BLIND LAWYER...MURDOCK ...IS STILL ABOARD! GIVE HIM ANOTHER FIVE SECONDS...THEN LET 'ER RIP!

I CAN'T REASON WITH HIM! HE'S OUT OF CONTROL! YOU'D BETTER DO WHAT YOU MUST, GENERAL!
THAT'S JUST WHAT INTEND TO DO! WE WERE ONLY WAITING FOR YOU!
OPEN FIRE!


THEY'RE SHOOTING! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN... THE HULK HAS ESCAPED!
THAT'S THE BEST NEWS I HEARD SINCE THEY STARTED TEARIN' DOWN YANCY STREET!
NOW I'M GONNA GET A CHANCE TO REALLY CLOBBER THE CREEP!

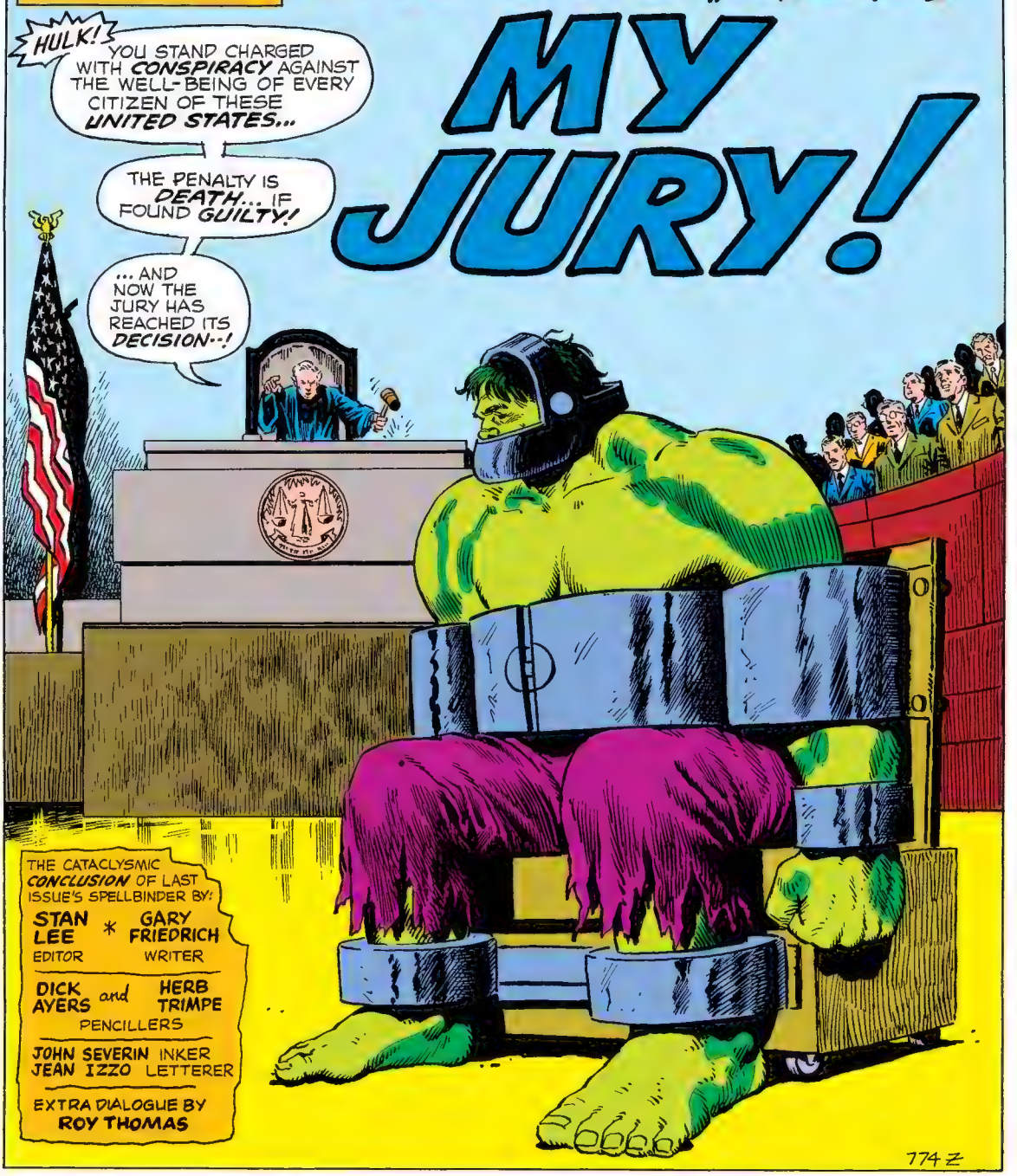


NEXT! THE TERROR... AND THE TRIAL!

INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢
153
JULY
02456
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
VS. EVERYBODY!
with SUPERHERO GUEST STARS GALORE!
I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO--
NO! NO! STAY BACK--!!
THE WORLD, MY JURY!

"SO YOUR BROTHER'S BOUND AND GAGGED, AND THEY'VE CHAINED HIM TO A CHAIR... WON'T YOU PLEASE COME TO CHICAGO JUST TO SING?"
-- GRAHAM NASH, 1971

THE WORLD, MY JURY!


HULK! YOU STAND CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE WELL-BEING OF EVERY CITIZEN OF THESE UNITED STATES...
THE PENALTY IS DEATH... IF FOUND GUILTY!
... AND NOW THE JURY HAS REACHED ITS DECISION--!

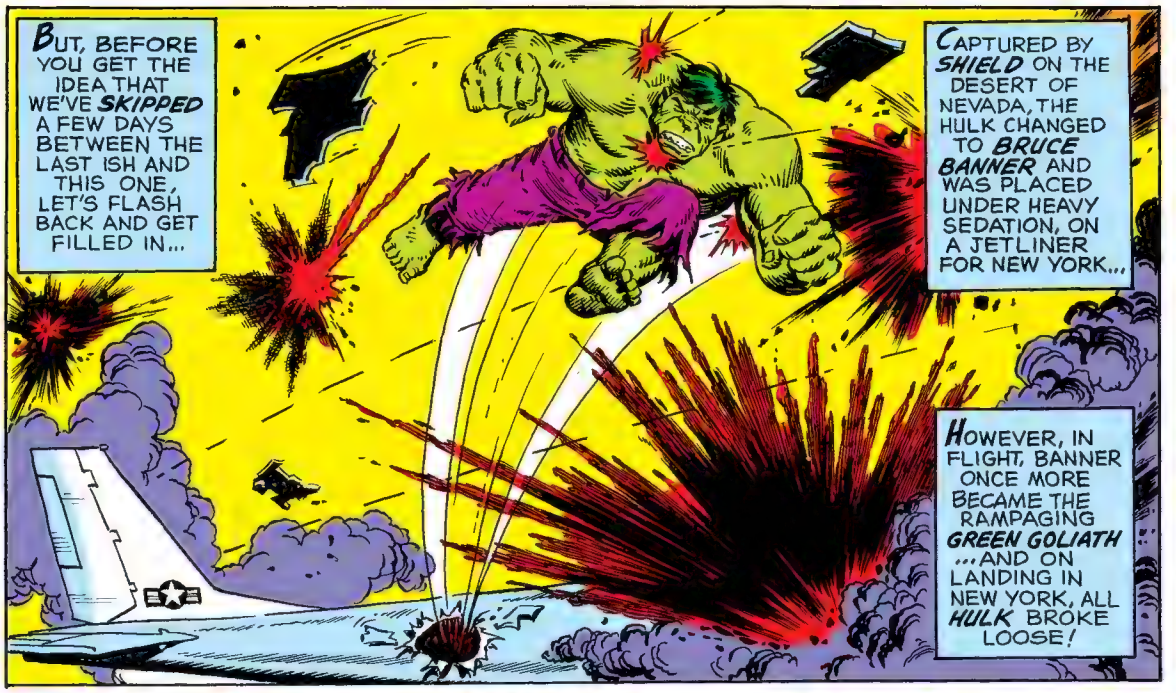
THE CATACLYSMIC CONCLUSION OF LAST ISSUE'S SPELLBINDER BY:

STAN LEE * EDITOR
GARY FRIEDRICH WRITER

DICK AYERS and HERB TRIMPE PENCILLERS

JOHN SEVERIN INKER
JEAN IZZO LETTERER

EXTRA DIALOGUE BY ROY THOMAS

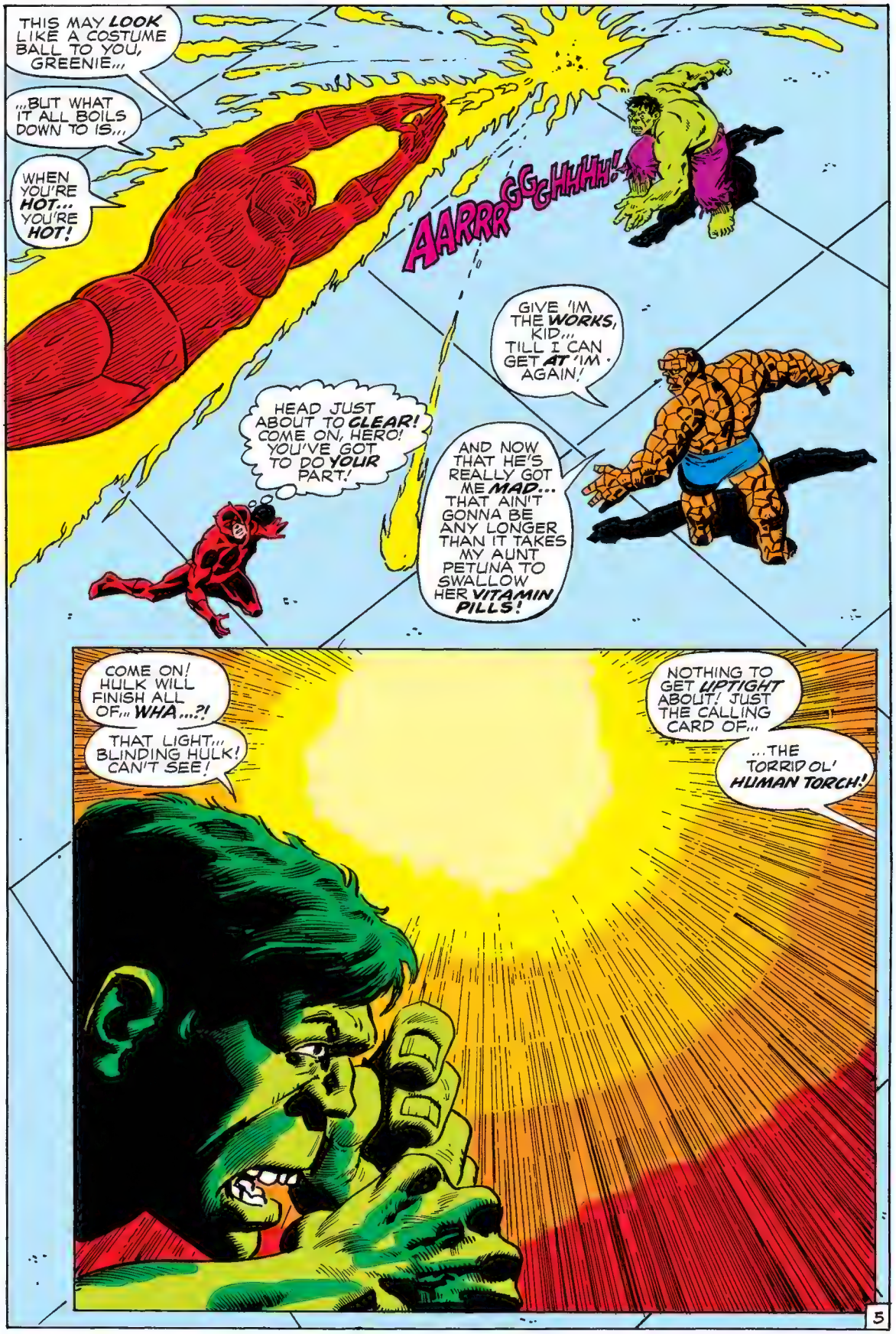

BUT, BEFORE YOU GET THE IDEA THAT WE'VE SKIPPED A FEW DAYS BETWEEN THE LAST ISH AND THIS ONE, LET'S FLASH BACK AND GET FILLED IN...
CAPTURED BY SHIELD ON THE DESERT OF NEVADA, THE HULK CHANGED TO BRUCE BANNER AND WAS PLACED UNDER HEAVY SEDATION, ON A JETLINER FOR NEW YORK...
HOWEVER, IN FLIGHT, BANNER ONCE MORE BECAME THE RAMPAGING GREEN GOLIATH ...AND ON LANDING IN NEW YORK, ALL HULK BROKE LOOSE!

HULK HAS BEEN BETRAYED FOR THE LAST TIME*
HULK WILL NEVER TRUST HUMANS AGAIN... AND WILL SMASH EVERY MAN WHO GETS IN HIS WAY!
*MATT MURDOCK WON THE HULK'S CONFIDENCE, ONLY TO HAVE IT DESTROYED BY THE MANEUVERINGS OF THUNDERBOLT ROSS LAST ISH!---S.

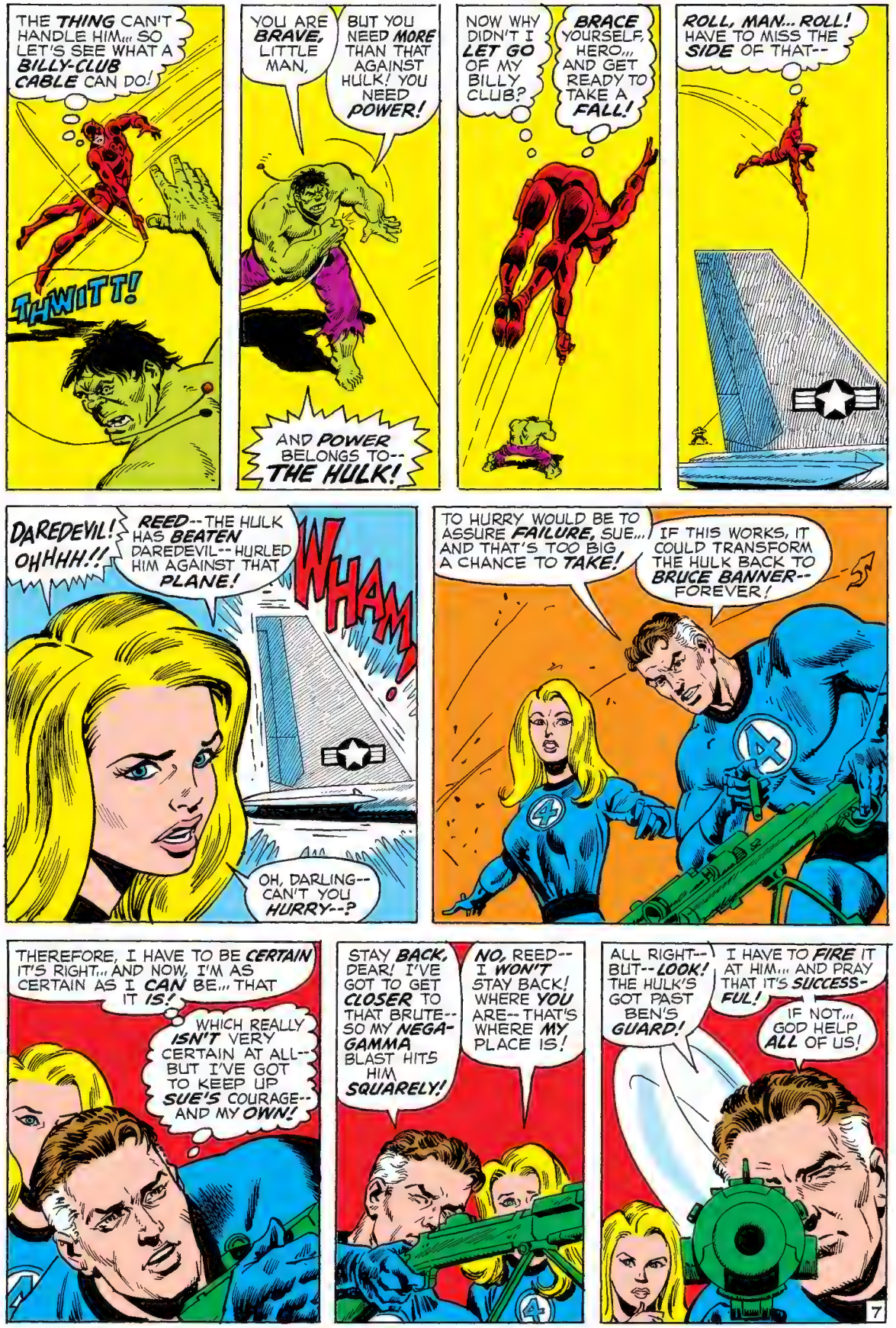
OKAY, HANDSOME... YOU CAN DROP THE BANG-BANGS NOW!
YOU! HULK THOUGHT HE FINISHED YOU BEFORE...
THAT IS... IF YA THINK YER UP TO TANGLIN' WITH THE EVER-LOVIN' BLUE-EYED THING!
...BUT THIS TIME, HULK WILL MAKE SURE YOU NEVER RETURN TO HOUND HIM AGAIN!
2

THE FANTASTIC FOUR! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE THEM HERE...
...BUT I'M NOT SORRY! STILL, THEY MAY NEED HELP...
...AND I KNOW JUST THE SWINGIN' SWASHBUCKLER TO GIVE IT TO THEM!
GOTCHA! THIS IS THE WAY DORY FUNK, JR. ALWAYS STARTS 'RASSLIN' MATCHES...
...AND IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE CHAMP... IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR OL' BENJAMIN GRIMM!
EVERY TIME WE MEET... YOU AWAYS TALK... TRY TO THROW HULK OFF TRACK!
BUT NOT THIS TIME...
...NOT THIS TIME!!
NEXT?! HULK WILL FIGHT YOU ALL!
WHAK
OOOM!
:UUUUNNHHH:
DO YOU HEAR?? HULK WILL FIGHT YOU ALL!
GOOD LORD! HE'S GOING TO KILL US!
GET BACK! HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
LOOK AT HIM... THE HATRED! GET A PICTURE OF THIS, PARKER!
I-I DON'T THINK I CAN! I'M FEELING SICK!
3

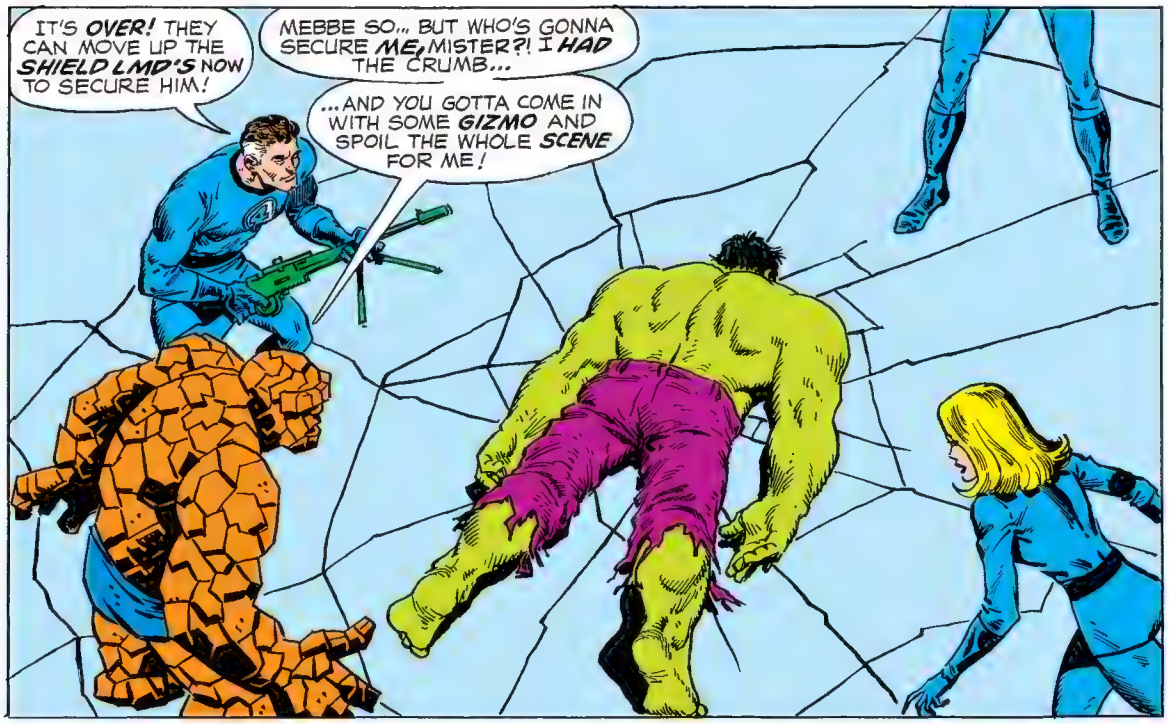
SORRY TO COME BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR CAPTIVE AUDIENCE...
...BUT I HAVE A FEELING THEY CAN'T HANDLE THE PRICE OF ADMISSION!
DAREDEVIL!
I'M SORRY, SIR... BUT I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT!
WHAT?! AFTER ALL THOSE SPIDER-MAN PIX YOU'VE SHOT... NOW... WITH THE BIGGEST STORY OF ALL FACING US... YOU'RE GONNA TURN YELLOW?
HATE TO CUT OUT ON THE OLD SKIN-FLINT THIS WAY...
...BUT I HAVE A FEELING EVEN THE FF AND DAREDEVIL MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE HULK!
MEN IN COLORED UNDERWEAR... ALWAYS GETTING IN HULK'S WAY! STAY BACK-- OR YOU'LL NEVER BOTHER HULK AGAIN!
WHOK!
=UUUNNNHHH!=
BEN IS OUT... AND SO IS DAREDEVIL! HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO WAIT?!
LET ME GO AFTER HIM! I CAN AT LEAST BUY YOU SOME MORE TIME!
I'LL BE READY IN A MINUTE OR TWO... BUT I MUST HAVE THAT LONG!
ALL RIGHT, JOHNNY... BUY ME SOME TIME... BUT BE CAREFUL, LAD!
SAY NO MORE, BROTHER-IN-LAW!
FLAME ON!
4


THIS MAY LOOK LIKE A COSTUME BALL TO YOU, GREENIE...
...BUT WHAT IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO IS...
WHEN YOU'RE HOT... YOU'RE HOT!
AARRRGGGHHHH!
GIVE 'IM THE WORKS, KID... TILL I CAN GET AT 'IM AGAIN!
HEAD JUST ABOUT TO CLEAR! COME ON, HERO! YOU'VE GOT TO DO YOUR PART!
AND NOW THAT HE'S REALLY GOT ME MAD... THAT AIN'T GONNA BE ANY LONGER THAN IT TAKES MY AUNT PETUNA TO SWALLOW HER VITAMIN PILLS!
COME ON! HULK WILL FINISH ALL OF... WHA...?!
THAT LIGHT... BLINDING HULK! CAN'T SEE!
NOTHING TO GET UPTIGHT ABOUT! JUST THE CALLING CARD OF...
...THE TORRID OL' HUMAN TORCH!

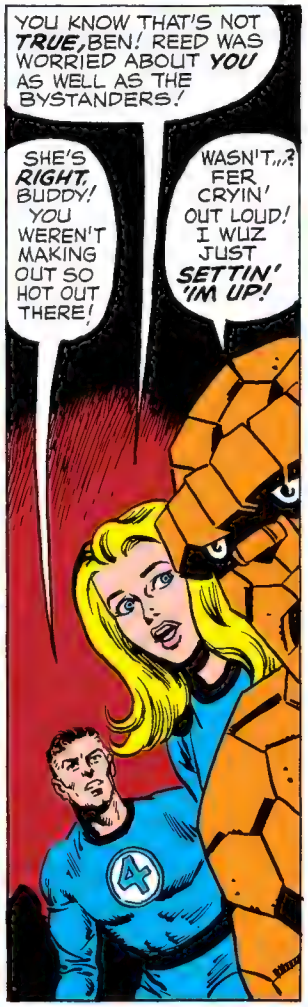
HOPE I'M NOT BUTTING IN! IT LOOKED LIKE YOU NEEDED ALL THE HELP YOU COULD GET!
WHO NEEDS HELP?! ALL I NEED'S A LITTLE BREATHIN' ROOM, SONNY!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, BIG MAN... BUT REMEMBER I OFFERED.
ALL YOU DO IS ARGUE AND FIGHT AMONG YOURSELVES!
NOW HULK WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO SETTLE ARGUMENTS!
IF YOU MEAN BY GETTIN' YERSELF CLOBBERED...
I BELIEVE YER JUST THE CREEP WHO CAN SWING IT!
KRAK!
HUH?! MY BEST SUNDAY PUNCH! HE TOOK IT... AND IT DIDN'T EVEN FAZE 'IM!
HULK IS THROUGH PLAYING! NOW HULK WILL FINISH!


THE THING CAN'T HANDLE HIM... SO LET'S SEE WHAT A BILLY-CLUB CABLE CAN DO!
THWIT T!
YOU ARE BRAVE, LITTLE MAN,
BUT YOU NEED MORE THAN THAT AGAINST HULK! YOU NEED POWER!
AND POWER BELONGS TO-- THE HULK!
NOW WHY DIDN'T I LET GO OF MY BILLY CLUB?
BRACE YOURSELF, HERO... AND GET READY TO TAKE A FALL!
ROLL, MAN... ROLL! HAVE TO MISS THE SIDE OF THAT--
DAREDEVIL! OHHHH!!
REED-- THE HULK HAS BEATEN DAREDEVIL-- HURLED HIM AGAINST THAT PLANE!
WHAM!
OH, DARLING-- CAN'T YOU HURRY--?
TO HURRY WOULD BE TO ASSURE FAILURE, SUE... AND THAT'S TOO BIG A CHANCE TO TAKE!
IF THIS WORKS, IT COULD TRANSFORM THE HULK BACK TO BRUCE BANNER-- FOREVER!
THEREFORE, I HAVE TO BE CERTAIN IT'S RIGHT... AND NOW, I'M AS CERTAIN AS I CAN BE... THAT IT IS!
WHICH REALLY ISN'T VERY CERTAIN AT ALL-- BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP UP SUE'S COURAGE-- AND MY OWN!
STAY BACK, DEAR! I'VE GOT TO GET CLOSER TO THAT BRUTE-- SO MY NEGA-GAMMA BLAST HITS HIM SQUARELY!
NO, REED-- I WON'T STAY BACK! WHERE YOU ARE-- THAT'S WHERE MY PLACE IS!
ALL RIGHT-- BUT-- LOOK! THE HULK'S GOT PAST BEN'S GUARD!
I HAVE TO FIRE IT AT HIM... AND PRAY THAT IT'S SUCCESS-FUL!
IF NOT... GOD HELP ALL OF US!
7

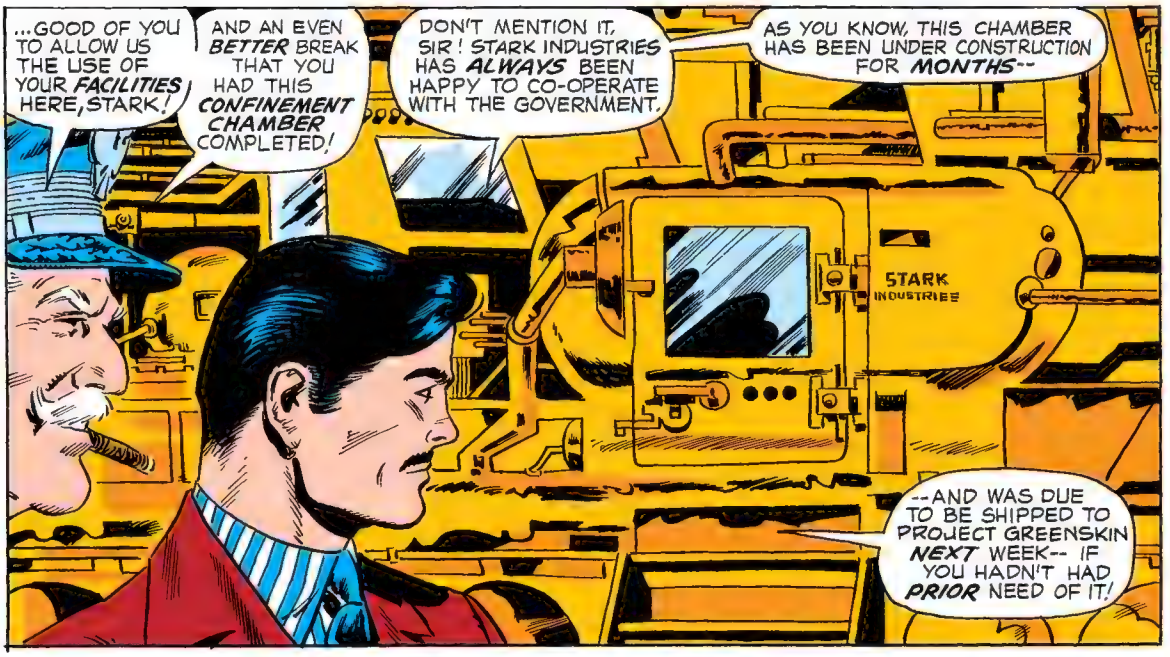
OVER AND OVER YOU'VE TRIED TO KILL HULK! YOU NEVER LEARNED HULK IS STRONGEST OF ALL!
NOW HULK WILL PROVE IT TO YOU,,, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
ARE YOU KIDDIN'?! I,,, GOT YOU ,,, JUST WHERE I WANT YOU,,,!
ZATTTTT!
DUCK, BEN!
SUE-- I THINK-- IT'S WORKING!
IT HAS TO DARLING! IT SIMPLY MUST!
ARRRGGGHHH!
HULK... HURTS! HEAD... HURTS...! CAN'T SEE... CAN'T THINK!
I HAVE TO GET CLOSER... MAKE SURE HE ABSORBS THE FULL EFFECT OF THE NEGA-GAMMA!
HEY! DOES SOMEBODY WANNA TELL ME WHAT THE SAM HILL'S GOIN' ON AROUND HERE?
IN A MOMENT, BEN! FIRST WE HAVE TO BE SURE THE HULK'S UNCONSCIOUS!
I AIN'T INTERESTED IN A BUNCH A' SCIENTIFIC MUMBO-JUMBO! ALL I WANNA KNOW IS--
ANOTHER FEW SECONDS,,, AND THE RAYS WILL HAVE TOTALLY NEUTRALIZED THE POWER HE GAINED FROM GAMMA RAYS!
THUDD!
--WHY'D YA HORN IN ON MY FIGHT??
8

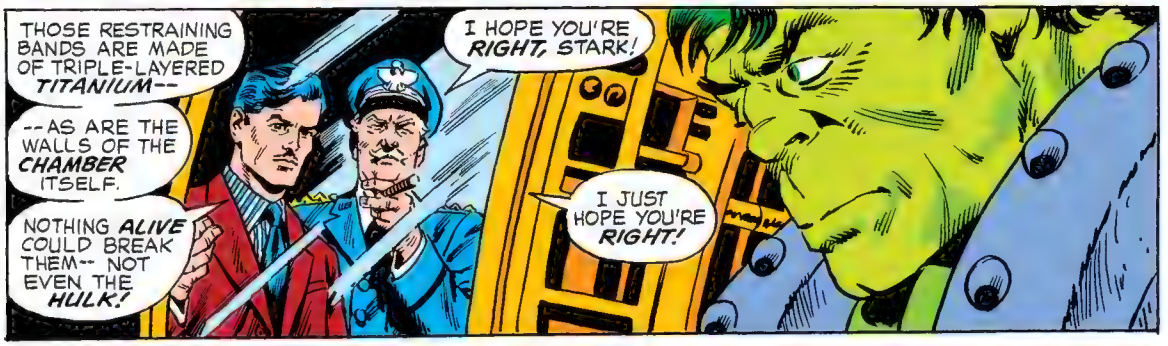

IT'S OVER! THEY CAN MOVE UP THE SHIELD LMD'S NOW TO SECURE HIM!
MEBBE SO... BUT WHO'S GONNA SECURE ME, MISTER?! I HAD THE CRUMB...
...AND YOU GOTTA COME IN WITH SOME GIZMO AND SPOIL THE WHOLE SCENE FOR ME!

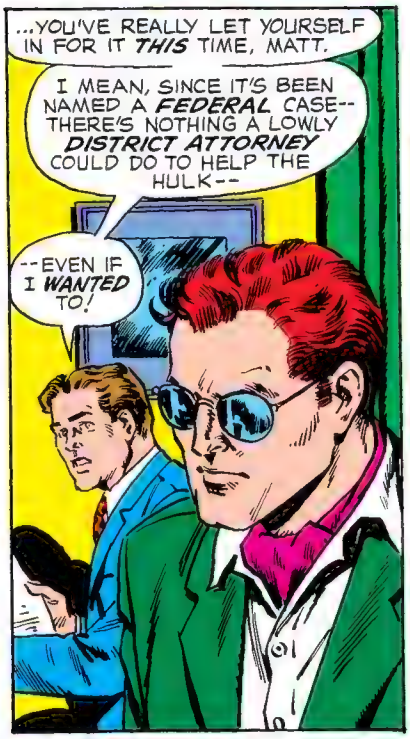
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, OLD FRIEND! HAD ANYTHING GONE WRONG... HAD HE SOMEHOW GOTTEN AWAY FROM YOU,,, THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT BYSTANDERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN HURT!
DON'T HAND ME THAT OL' BILL O' GOODS, STRETCHO! YOU JUST COULDN'T STAND TO SEE ME GET THE GLORY FER A CHANGE!


YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE, BEN! REED WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU AS WELL AS THE BYSTANDERS!
SHE'S RIGHT, BUDDY! YOU WEREN'T MAKING OUT SO HOT OUT THERE!
WASN'T...? FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD! I WUZ JUST SETTIN' 'IM UP!

GREAT WORK, RICHARDS! I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT CONGRESS GIVES YOU A MEDAL!
THANK YOU GENERAL,,, BUT MY FRIENDS HERE DESERVE AS MUCH CREDIT AS I...
...AND BEN IN PARTICULAR! HE HELD THE HULK OFF UNTIL I WAS READY!
AND I MUST ADMIT, SIR, THAT EVEN NOW I CAN'T BE CERTAIN MY NEGA-GAMMA WAS A SUCCESS!


...GOOD OF YOU TO ALLOW US THE USE OF YOUR FACILITIES HERE, STARK!
AND AN EVEN BETTER BREAK THAT YOU HAD THIS CONFINEMENT CHAMBER COMPLETED!
DON'T MENTION IT, SIR! STARK INDUSTRIES HAS ALWAYS BEEN HAPPY TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.
AS YOU KNOW, THIS CHAMBER HAS BEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR MONTHS--
STARK INDUSTRIES
--AND WAS DUE TO BE SHIPPED TO PROJECT GREENSKIN NEXT WEEK-- IF YOU HADN'T HAD PRIOR NEED OF IT!

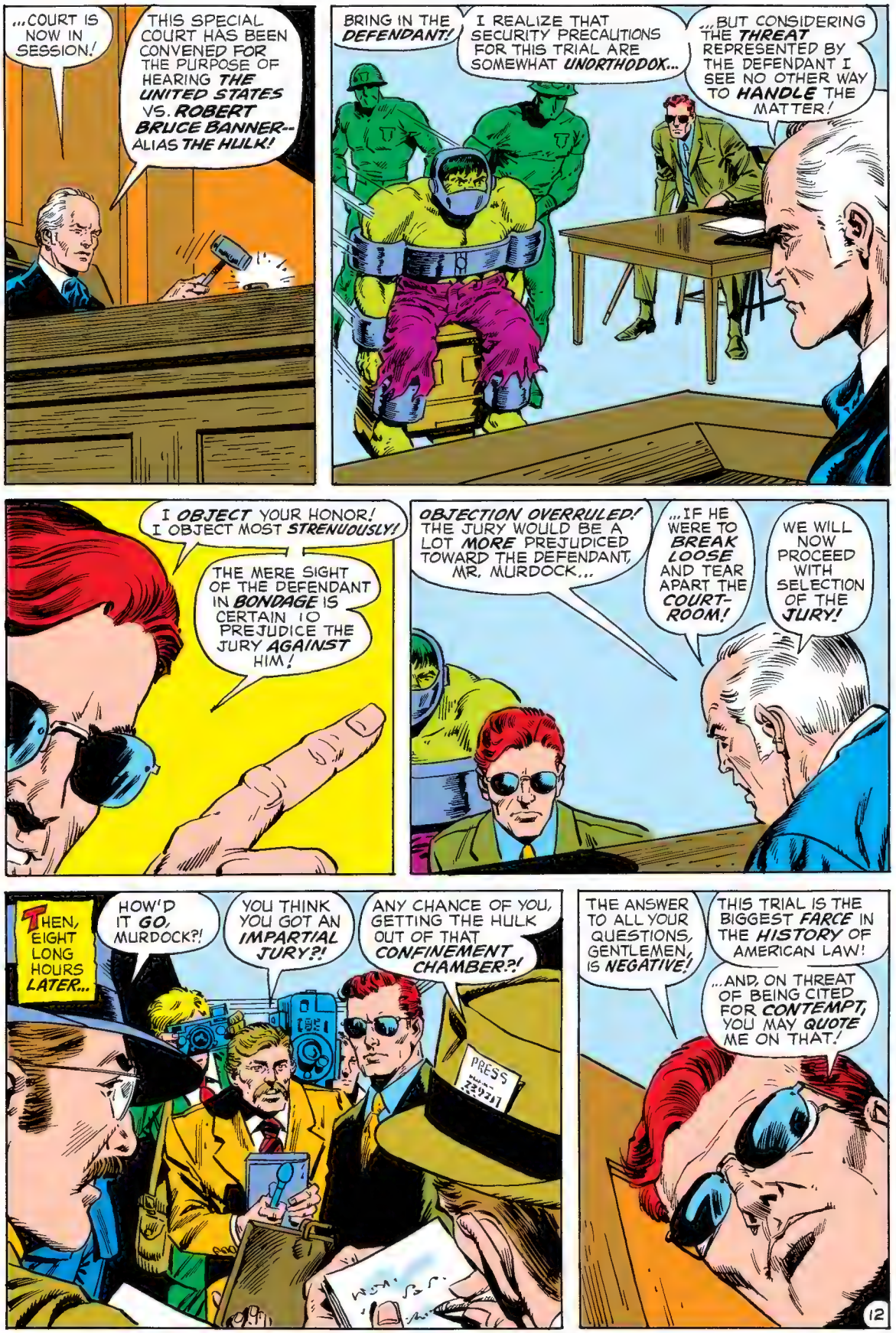

THOSE RESTRAINING BANDS ARE MADE OF TRIPLE-LAYERED TITANIUM--
--AS ARE THE WALLS OF THE CHAMBER ITSELF.
NOTHING ALIVE COULD BREAK THEM-- NOT EVEN THE HULK!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, STARK!
I JUST HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!


...YOU'VE REALLY LET YOURSELF IN FOR IT THIS TIME, MATT.
I MEAN, SINCE IT'S BEEN NAMED A FEDERAL CASE-- THERE'S NOTHING A LOWLY DISTRICT ATTORNEY COULD DO TO HELP THE HULK--
--EVEN IF I WANTED TO!

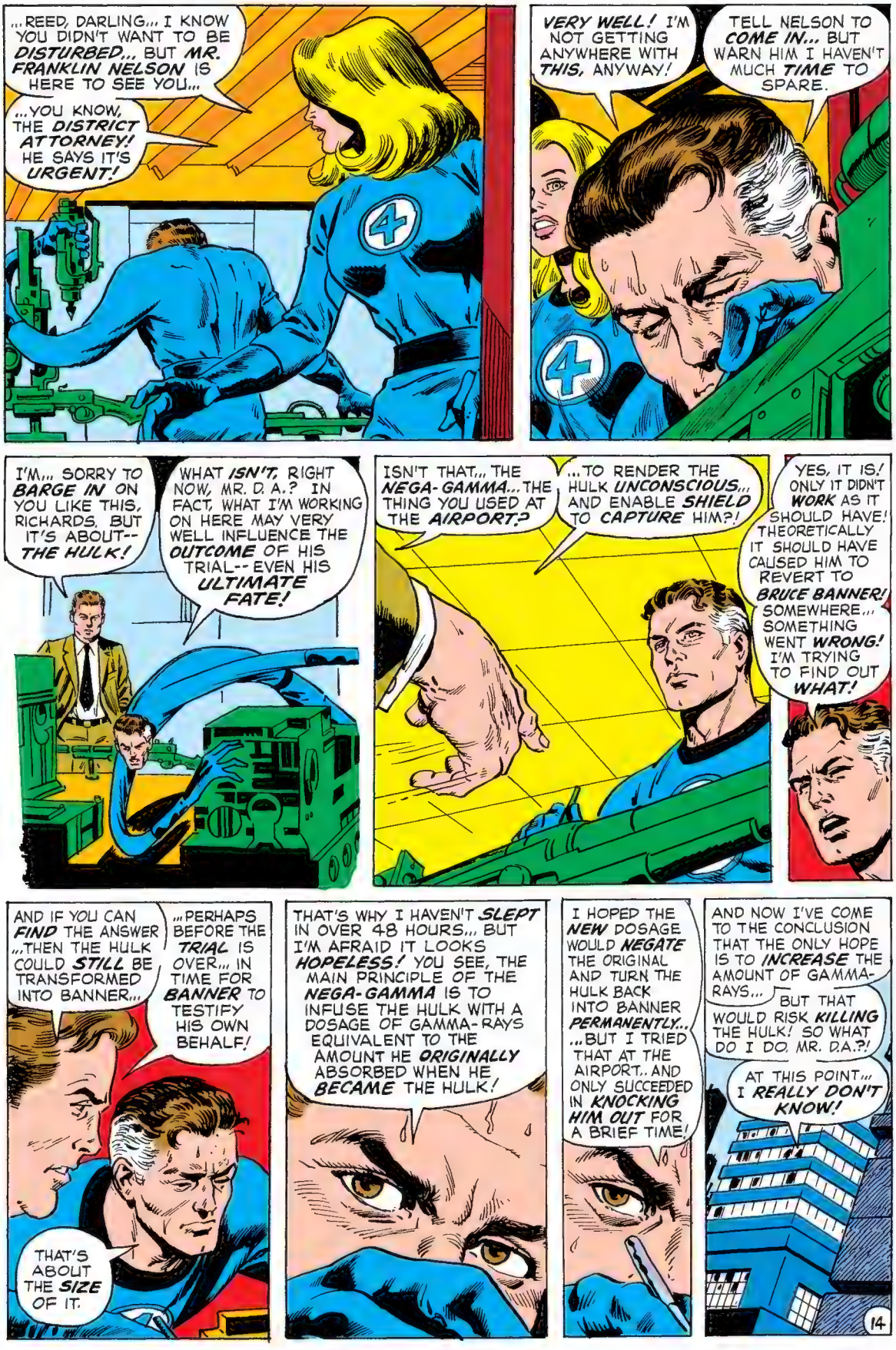
AND YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT IN ADVISING ME TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CASE...
BUT SOMEHOW, I JUST CAN'T! THE HULK IS ALONE-- FRIENDLESS --AS MUCH SINNED AGAINST AS SINNING.

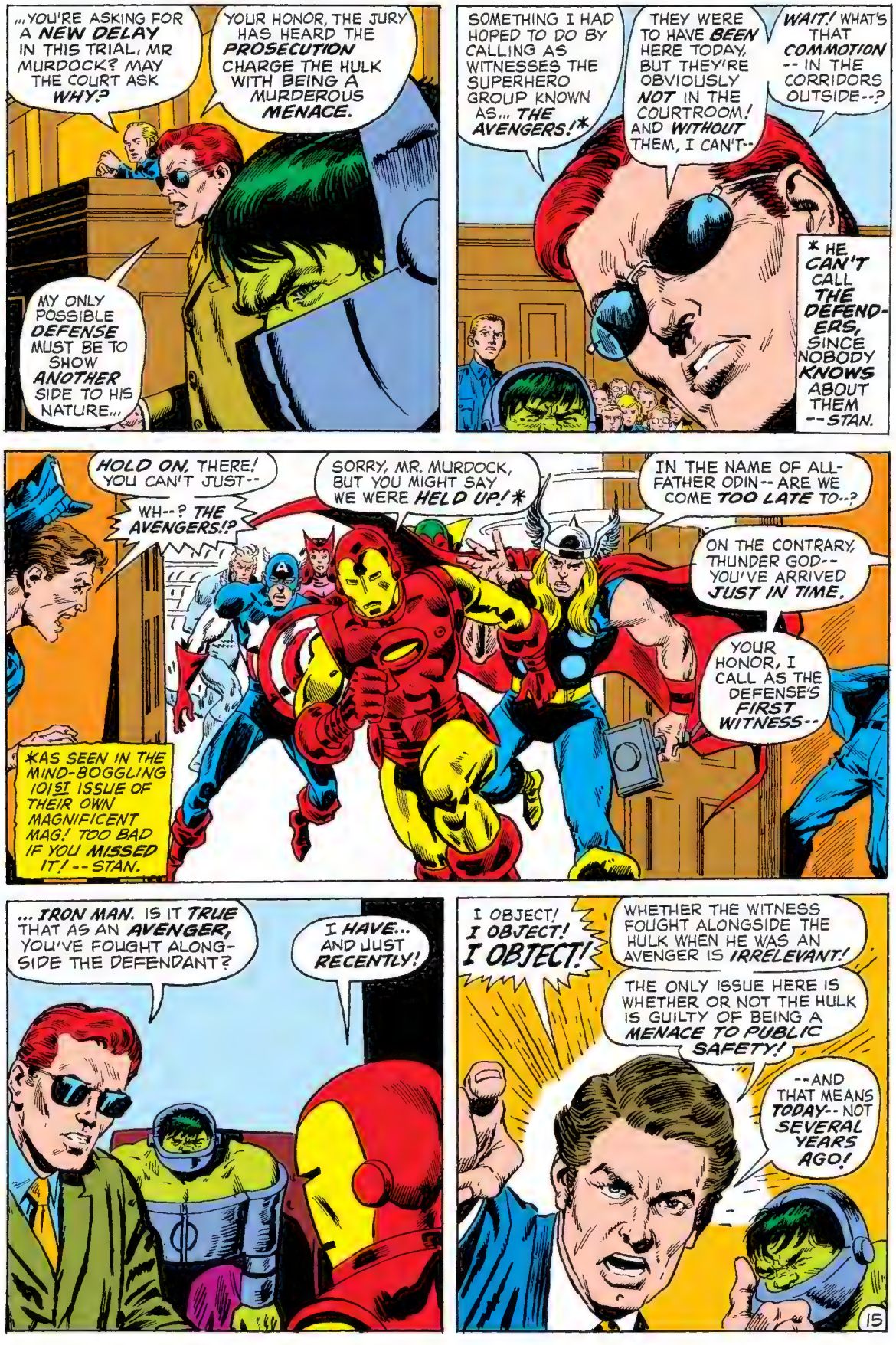
THUS, I FEEL THAT I HAVE TO DEFEND HIM... EVEN IF IT MAY MEAN THE END OF MY LEGAL CAREER! IF YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT... THEN I DON'T KNOW WHO WILL!

I UNDERSTAND, EX-PARTNER... AND I'D DO THE SAME THING IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES.
NOW, I SUGGEST YOU GET OUT TO STARK INDUSTRIES. THEY'RE HOLDING YOUR... CLIENT... THERE--
--AND HE'LL NEED YOU WHEN HE COMES TO!
YOU'RE RIGHT... ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO, UNLESS HE CHANGES BACK TO BANNER.
YOU'LL THINK OF SOMETHING, LEGAL EAGLE! GOOD LUCK.
THANKS, FOGGY... FOR EVERYTHING!
I KNEW FOGGY WOULD BACK ME... BUT DID HE REALLY MEAN IT? WILL ANYONE BE ABLE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE HULK?!
I'D BETTER HOPE SO... OR BY THE TIME THE TRIAL IS OVER, THERE WON'T BE ANY PLACE ON EARTH REMOTE ENOUGH FOR ME TO HIDE.
BUT, AT LEAST THIS ONCE, THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE GRIND EXCEEDING SWIFT AS WELL AS FINE...
CITY COURT HOUSE
AND, ONLY A FEW DAYS LATER...
ALL I CAN SAY, MURDOCK, IS THAT I'M SORRY.
MY NEGA-GAMMA DEVICE MIGHT STILL TURN THE HULK BACK INTO BRUCE BANNER-- BUT I'D NEED MORE TIME TO EXPERIMENT--
--AND TIME IS SOMETHING WE SEEM TO BE FRESH OUT OF.
SO I SEE.
IF ONLY THE TRIAL HADN'T BEEN PUSHED UP TO SUCH AN EARLY DATE--!
FINAL
DAILY BUGLE
METROPOLITAN'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
HULK ON TRIAL!
PROCEEDINGS RUSHED DUE TO
DANGER OF KEEPING THE GREEN
MENACE CONFINED— STORY ON P.3
YOU'RE TELLING ME!? I'VE HARDLY HAD TIME TO PREPARE A DEFENSE.
STILL, I CAN SEE THE GOVERNMENT'S SIDE.
EVERY DAY THEY KEEP THE HULK CONFINED WHERE HE MAY BREAK FREE!
WELL... WE'D BETTER GO IN...!
11


...COURT IS NOW IN SESSION!
THIS SPECIAL COURT HAS BEEN CONVENED FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING THE UNITED STATES VS. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER-- ALIAS THE HULK!
BRING IN THE DEFENDANT!
I REALIZE THAT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR THIS TRIAL ARE SOMEWHAT UNORTHODOX...
...BUT CONSIDERING THE THREAT REPRESENTED BY THE DEFENDANT I SEE NO OTHER WAY TO HANDLE THE MATTER!
I OBJECT YOUR HONOR! I OBJECT MOST STRENUOUSLY!
THE MERE SIGHT OF THE DEFENDANT IN BONDAGE IS CERTAIN TO PREJUDICE THE JURY AGAINST HIM!
OBJECTION OVERRULED! THE JURY WOULD BE A LOT MORE PREJUDICED TOWARD THE DEFENDANT, MR. MURDOCK...
...IF HE WERE TO BREAK LOOSE AND TEAR APART THE COURT-ROOM!
WE WILL NOW PROCEED WITH SELECTION OF THE JURY!
THEN, EIGHT LONG HOURS LATER...
HOW'D IT GO, MURDOCK?!
YOU THINK YOU GOT AN IMPARTIAL JURY?!
ANY CHANCE OF YOU, GETTING THE HULK OUT OF THAT CONFINEMENT CHAMBER?!
PRESS
THE ANSWER TO ALL YOUR QUESTIONS, GENTLEMEN, IS NEGATIVE!
THIS TRIAL IS THE BIGGEST FARCE IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN LAW!
...AND, ON THREAT OF BEING CITED FOR CONTEMPT, YOU MAY QUOTE ME ON THAT!

WE'RE WITH YOU, MURDOCK!
RIGHT ON MURDOCK!
IF THEY FRY THE HULK, WE'LL BRING THIS COURT HOUSE DOWN!
LOOK... I APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT... AND I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO SEE TO IT THAT THE HULK GETS A SQUARE DEAL!
BUT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT WE'RE UP AGAINST THE WALL!
SO HANG IN THERE AND KEEP IT COOL! VIOLENCE ON YOUR PART WON'T HELP ANYONE!
GREEN IS BEAUT
HO, HO, HO! LET HULK GO!
FREE THE HULK! FREE THE HULK! FREE THE HULK!
WHEW! THEY'RE OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC ...BUT I COULD SURE USE A COUPLE OF THEM ON THE JURY!
THE JURY HAS BEEN SELECTED... AND WE ARE READY TO PROCEED! WILL THE PROSECUTION PLEASE CALL ITS FIRST WITNESS!
WE WILL, YOUR HONOR! THE PROSECUTION CALLS GEN. "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS... UNITED STATES AIR FORCE!
MMMRRHGH!
LET HULK FREE! ROSS HATES HULK-- ALWAYS HOUNDS HIM WITH GUNS-- WITH PLANES...
SILENCE! KEEP QUIET... OR I'LL HAVE YOU GAGGED!
HE'S ALREADY GAGGED! GAGGED BECAUSE HE'S MENTALLY INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL! GAGGED BECAUSE HE'S PRESENTED THE JURY LIKE A CHAINED CONVICT...
BE STILL, COUNSELOR... OR I'LL HOLD YOU IN CONTEMPT!


...REED, DARLING... I KNOW YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED... BUT MR. FRANKLIN NELSON IS HERE TO SEE YOU...
...YOU KNOW, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY! HE SAYS IT'S URGENT!
VERY WELL! I'M NOT GETTING ANYWHERE WITH THIS, ANYWAY!
TELL NELSON TO COME IN... BUT WARN HIM I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME TO SPARE.
I'M... SORRY TO BARGE IN ON YOU LIKE THIS, RICHARDS, BUT IT'S ABOUT-- THE HULK!
WHAT ISN'T, RIGHT NOW, MR. D. A.? IN FACT, WHAT I'M WORKING ON HERE MAY VERY WELL INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF HIS TRIAL-- EVEN HIS ULTIMATE FATE!
ISN'T THAT... THE NEGA-GAMMA... THE THING YOU USED AT THE AIRPORT?
...TO RENDER THE HULK UNCONSCIOUS... AND ENABLE SHIELD TO CAPTURE HIM?!
YES, IT IS! ONLY IT DIDN'T WORK AS IT SHOULD HAVE! THEORETICALLY IT SHOULD HAVE CAUSED HIM TO REVERT TO BRUCE BANNER! SOMEWHERE... SOMETHING WENT WRONG! I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT!
AND IF YOU CAN FIND THE ANSWER ...THEN THE HULK COULD STILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO BANNER...
...PERHAPS BEFORE THE TRIAL IS OVER... IN TIME FOR BANNER TO TESTIFY HIS OWN BEHALF!
THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT.
THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN OVER 48 HOURS... BUT I'M AFRAID IT LOOKS HOPELESS! YOU SEE, THE MAIN PRINCIPLE OF THE NEGA-GAMMA IS TO INFUSE THE HULK WITH A DOSAGE OF GAMMA-RAYS EQUIVALENT TO THE AMOUNT HE ORIGINALLY ABSORBED WHEN HE BECAME THE HULK!
I HOPED THE NEW DOSAGE WOULD NEGATE THE ORIGINAL AND TURN THE HULK BACK INTO BANNER PERMANENTLY... ...BUT I TRIED THAT AT THE AIRPORT.. AND ONLY SUCCEEDED IN KNOCKING HIM OUT FOR A BRIEF TIME!
AND NOW I'VE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ONLY HOPE IS TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF GAMMA-RAYS...
BUT THAT WOULD RISK KILLING THE HULK! SO WHAT DO I DO, MR. D.A.?!
AT THIS POINT... I REALLY DON'T KNOW!
14


...YOU'RE ASKING FOR A NEW DELAY IN THIS TRIAL, MR MURDOCK? MAY THE COURT ASK WHY?
YOUR HONOR, THE JURY HAS HEARD THE PROSECUTION CHARGE THE HULK WITH BEING A MURDEROUS MENACE.
MY ONLY POSSIBLE DEFENSE MUST BE TO SHOW ANOTHER SIDE TO HIS NATURE...
SOMETHING I HAD HOPED TO DO BY CALLING AS WITNESSES THE SUPERHERO GROUP KNOWN AS... THE AVENGERS!*
THEY WERE TO HAVE BEEN HERE TODAY, BUT THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT IN THE COURTROOM! AND WITHOUT THEM, I CAN'T--
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION -- IN THE CORRIDORS OUTSIDE--?
* HE CAN'T CALL THE DEFENDERS, SINCE NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT THEM --STAN.
HOLD ON, THERE! YOU CAN'T JUST--
WH--? THE AVENGERS!?
SORRY, MR. MURDOCK, BUT YOU MIGHT SAY WE WERE HELD UP!*
IN THE NAME OF ALL-FATHER ODIN-- ARE WE COME TOO LATE TO--?
ON THE CONTRARY, THUNDER GOD-- YOU'VE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME.
YOUR HONOR, I CALL AS THE DEFENSE'S FIRST WITNESS--
*AS SEEN IN THE MIND-BOGGLING 10¦5I ISSUE OF THEIR OWN MAGNIFICENT MAG! TOO BAD IF YOU MISSED IT! --STAN.
... IRON MAN. IS IT TRUE THAT AS AN AVENGER, YOU'VE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THE DEFENDANT?
I HAVE... AND JUST RECENTLY!
I OBJECT! I OBJECT! I OBJECT!
WHETHER THE WITNESS FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THE HULK WHEN HE WAS AN AVENGER IS IRRELEVANT!
THE ONLY ISSUE HERE IS WHETHER OR NOT THE HULK IS GUILTY OF BEING A MENACE TO PUBLIC SAFETY!
--AND THAT MEANS TODAY-- NOT SEVERAL YEARS AGO!
15

OBJECTION SUSTAINED! YOU'LL CONTINUE YOUR QUESTIONS TO MATTERS PERTINENT TO THIS CASE, COUNSELOR!
VERY WELL, YOUR HONOR! I'LL REPHRASE THE QUESTION!
IRON MAN,,, IN YOUR OPINION,,, IS THE HULK A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY?
I'M AFRAID I'D HAVE TO ANSWER YES TO THAT,,,
HOWEVER, LET ME QUALIFY THAT STATEMENT! ALTHOUGH HE IS A MENACE,,,
IN HIS ALTER EGO, HE IS ALSO OUR MOST BRILLIANT NUCLEAR SCIENTIST!
THEREFORE, I BELIEVE HIS LIFE SHOULD BE SPARED, LONG ENOUGH FOR--
OBJECTION! OBJECTION!
SUSTAINED! WILL THE WITNESS PLEASE REMAIN SEATED AND CONFINE HIS ANSWERS TO FACTS. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR OPINION ON THE WITNESS STAND!
THE WITNESS IS DISMISSED!
THE DEFENSE CALLS,,, THOR!
AND THE PROSECUTION CAN START OBJECTING AGAIN!
WE CAN, YOUR HONOR--
...AND WE WILL!
YOUR HONOR, WHAT IS THIS,,, A COURT OF LAW OR A HALLOWEEN PARTY?
IT WOULD APPEAR THE DEFENSE IS TRYING TO SWAY THE JURY BY PRESENTING A MASS OF FOLK HEROES!
THEIR PRESENCE HAS NO BEARING WHATSOEVER ON THIS CASE!
WHAT ABOUT IT, COUNSELOR?! CAN THIS WITNESS SHED MORE LIGHT ON THIS CASE THAN THE LAST?!
NO, YOUR HONOR,,, NOT IF I CAN'T QUESTION HIM FREELY!
THEN THE OBJECTION IS SUSTAINED! THE WITNESS IS DISMISSED! CALL YOUR NEXT WITNESS!
I HAVE,,, ONLY ONE...
16

THE DEFENSE CALLS THE HULK!
AND I DEMAND THAT THE DEFENDANTS GAG IS REMOVED...
...UNLESS, OF COURSE, THE PROSECUTION WOULD FIND HIS TESTIMONY IRRELEVANT TOO!
WELL, MR. ATTORNEY FOR THE PROSECUTION?
THE PROSECUTION... CAN HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THIS ACTION, YOUR HONOR.
BALIFFS-- REMOVE THE GAG BUT STAND READY TO REPLACE IT AGAIN! I'LL TOLERATE NO VIOLENCE IN THIS COURT!
THE METAL GAG IS RETRACTING, YOUR HONOR! THE DEFENDANT IS READY FOR QUESTIONING!
VERY WELL! YOU MAY BEGIN YOUR EXAMINATION, COUNSELOR!
I HOPE THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT'S TAKING PLACE HERE... THAT I AM YOUR FRIEND... AND THAT I WANT TO HELP YOU!
YOU'RE HOPELESSLY TRAPPED... AND UNLESS YOU COOPERATE WITH ME... YOU VERY WELL MAY DIE!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!
HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT HULK HAS NO FRIENDS...
NO ONE WANTS TO HELP HULK! NO ONE EVER WANTS TO HELP HULK!
MEN ARE ALL CRAZY!
YOUR HONOR, I BEG OF YOU... IF THIS DOESN'T PROVE THE DEFENDANT IS MENTALLY INCOMPETENT...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL! PLEASE, CALL A HALT TO THIS FARCE! THE HULK IS CONFUSED... BUT HE'S NOT EVIL!
I PLACE HIS LIFE... IN YOUR HANDS!
17

YOU MAKE A STRONG POINT, COUNSELOR, WHERE THE RIGHTS OF THE DEFENDANT ARE CONCERNED.
HOWEVER, THIS COURT HAS THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER, AS WELL.
THEREFORE, I MUST DENY YOUR MOTION, AND ORDER THAT THE TRIAL PROCEED!
AS YOU WISH, YOUR HONOR.
IN THAT EVENT, THE DEFENSE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO REST ITS CASE.
...AND HOPE FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING AT A LATER DATE FROM A HIGHER COURT OF APPEAL.
AT THIS POINT, THEN, THIS COURT WILL STAND RECESSED UNTIL ONE P.M. TOMORROW... AT WHICH TIME COUNSELS WILL PRESENT THEIR CLOSING ARGUMENTS.
THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST UNIQUE AND VEXSOME CASE IN AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE WITH A MOST UNUSUAL GROUPING OF WITNESSES...
BUT NOT THE ONE WITNESS WHO TRULY MATTERS, YOUR HONOR!
NOT THE SINGLE PERSON WHO KNOWS MOST ABOUT THE BRUTISH CREATURE WE CALL THE HULK.
WHAT THE DEVIL--? WHO ARE YOU, SIR, AND HOW DID YOU--?
NOT THE MAN NAMED-- BRUCE BANNER!
MY GIVEN NAME IS REED RICHARDS, YOUR HONOR... BUT PERHAPS MY LESS FORMAL TITLE WILL ANSWER BOTH YOUR QUESTIONS.
SOME PEOPLE KNOW ME AS... MR. FANTASTIC!

I'M NOT IGNORANT OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS FANTASTIC FOUR, MR. RICHARDS... BUT I MUST RESENT ANY ATTEMPT TO TURN THIS TRIAL INTO A THREE-RING CIRCUS.
IN VIEW OF YOUR REPUTATION, THE COURT WILL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN THIS OUTRAGE. THEN--
I'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED IT, YOUR HONOR.
THE ONE WITNESS WHO REALLY COUNTS IN THIS CASE IS IN THIS VERY COURTROOM-- AND YET NOT IN IT.
WITHIN THE HULK'S BODY IS CHAINED THE TORMENTED SOUL OF A HUMAN BEING.
I THINK I CAN RELEASE THAT SOUL-- WITH THIS.
YOUR HONOR-- I ASK THAT YOU HEAR THIS MAN OUT!
IN VIEW OF THE HIGHLY UNORTHODOX PROCEEDINGS OF THIS ENTIRE TRIAL... VERY WELL.
BUT BE BRIEF, MR. RICHARDS. OUR PATIENCE WITH GRAND-STANDING MONKEYSHINES IS WEARING THIN.
YOUR HONOR, I HAVE KNOWN THE... DEFENDANT... FOR YEARS.
AT TIMES, I HAVE LABORED TO CURE HIM OF THE RADIATION DISEASE WHICH HAS MADE HIM BOTH MAN AND MONSTER.
FINALLY, IN THIS DEVICE-- CALLED THE NEGA-GAMMA, FOR SHORT-- I FEEL I MAY HAVE ACHIEVED THAT CURE.
I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE COURT TO ALLOW ME TO EMPLOY IT...
..TO CHANGE THE HULK BACK INTO ROBERT BRUCE BANNER!
HMMM. IF YOUR APPARATUS WERE SUCCESSFUL... IF IT TRULY DISPOSED OF THE HULK FOREVER... A VERDICT MIGHT BE RENDERED UNNECESSARY.
YOU MAKE A TEMPTING CASE, MR. RICHARDS ... AND YET...
I BEG THE COURT-- LET REED RICHARDS TRY OUT THIS INVENTION OF HIS!
WE'VE NOT BEEN TRYING A HARDENED CRIMINAL HERE--
--BUT A TORTURED MAN, TRAPPED IN A MONSTROUS BODY WHICH HAS MADE HIM AN OBJECT OF FEAR AND OPPRESSION!
VERY WELL. MR. RICHARDS SHALL HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO SET UP HIS DEVICE--AND MAKE IT WORK.
AFTER THAT, THIS CASE IS CLOSED-- AND THE COURT STANDS RECESSED.
THAT IS ALL THE DEFENSE ASKS, YOUR HONOR.
IT'S NOT ALL THE HULK ASKS!
19

HULK IS TIRED OF SITTING HERE... HEARING TALK... NOTHING BUT TALK.
HULK WANTS TO-- HUH? WHY ARE YOU POINTING WEAPON AT HULK?
SORRY, OLD FRIEND, BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EXPLAIN THIS LITTLE GADGET TO YOU.
THERE'S ONLY TIME TO MAKE A FINAL ADJUSTMENT OR TWO-- POINT IT YOUR WAY--
FZZASK!
--FIRE--
--AND PRAY!
GUNS!
ALWAYS, PUNY HUMANS POINT GUNS AT HULK!
THEY EVEN CHAIN HULK--SO HE CAN'T FIGHT BACK!
BUT NOW-- SUDDENLY-- HULK FEELS DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE!
FEELS STRONGER SOMEHOW-- MUCH STRONGER!
DON'T KNOW WHY-- DON'T KNOW HOW-- AND DON'T CARE!
JUST KNOW THIS--
HULK MUST BE FREE!
FREE!
GOOD LORD! HE SHATTERED THOSE RESTRAINING BANDS-- LIKE SO MUCH TINFOIL!
20

ONCE HE MAKES IT OUTSIDE, WE'LL NEVER GET HIM.
BRAP!
DON'T SHOOT! BULLETS WILL JUST RICOCHET OFF HIM-- INTO THE CROWD!
FEELING OF POWER-- DIDN'T LAST LONG.
ALREADY HULK FEELS WEAKER AGAIN-- DIZZY--!
GOT TO PUT EVERYTHING-- INTO ONE BIG JUMP--
GOT TO DO IT-- NOW!
KA-OOM!
YOU! IT WAS YOUR BUNGLING THAT CAUSED THIS, RICHARDS-- YOU AND THAT NEGA-GAMMA THING OF YOURS.
THEN IT'S SOMETHING I'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH, MR. D.A.
ME-- NOT YOU!
THE HULK HAS ESCAPED-- AND MAYBE THE LAW CAN'T TOUCH YOU, BUT I GUARANTEE YOU, YOU'LL NEVER LIVE THIS DOWN!
...RICHARDS, I'M NOT ASKING YOU THIS, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWER.
BUT I CAN'T HELP SUSPECTING YOU RIGGED THAT DEVICE TO INCREASE THE HULK'S POWER... OUT OF PITY.
IT TOOK GUTS TO DO THAT, MAN. THE KIND OF GUTS ONE EXPECTS FROM THE LEADER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
FOR WHICH... THANKS.
BUT THE MAN CALLED REED RICHARDS SAYS NOTHING...
DOES HE ALREADY SEE, IN HIS MIND'S EYE, WHAT IS HAPPENING MILES AWAY, IN THE SOUTH BRONX?
DOES HE PICTURE THE HARD, HURTLING CRASH...?
AND DOES HE HEAR, AMID THE DUST AND DEBRIS OF LONG-DESERTED TENEMENTS...
...THE MOST HEART-STOPPING SOUND OF ALL...?
DOES HE HEAR...
...THE SOFT AND GENTLE TREAD OF UNSHOD DEATH...?
21

NEXT: A NEW HULK-- A SAVAGE NEW WORLD!

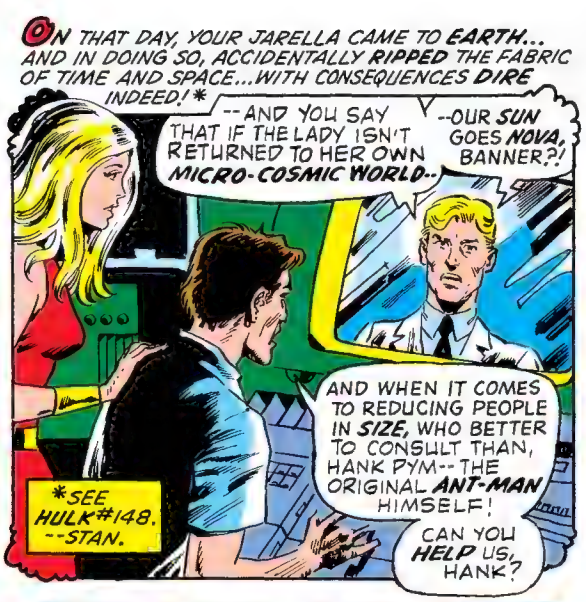
INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢ CC
154 AUG 02456
THE INCREDIBLE HULK™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
RUN, HULK! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
NOW THAT YOU'RE ANT-MAN SIZE, YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR THOSE PLAGUE-RATS!!
STANLEY MATCH BOOK CO.
TRIMPE & SEVERIN
HELL IS A VERY SMALL HULK!

HELL IS A VERY SMALL HULK!

ONCE MORE YOU HAVE ESCAPED, HULK...FROM THOSE MEN, PUNY HUMANS WHO HOUND AND HARASS YOU, EVEN PUT YOU ON TRIAL.* ONCE MORE YOU ARE FREE, FREE TO GO YOUR OWN WAY...
A WAY THAT HAS LED YOU FROM A SLUM IN THE BRONX TO HERE... THIS QUIET LONG ISLAND SUBURB.
THIS IS PLACE HULK SEEKS. CAN SENSE IT, FEEL IT.
BUT WHY....? WHY DOES HULK WANT TO COME HERE?
HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH A GIRL...GIRL WHO LOVED HULK FOR WHAT HE IS.
A GIRL NAMED... JARELLA!
*AS SEEN IN THE LAST TWO ISSUES. --STAN

STAN LEE • EDITOR
ARCHIE GOODWIN • WRITER
HERB TRIMPE • ARTIST
JOHN SEVERIN, INKER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

HOLY HANNAH!
WALLY, DID YOU SEE WHAT JUST LUMBERED UP TO THE PYM LABORATORIES?
MAN, I HADN'T, WOULD I BE RUNNIN' LIKE THIS?!
DOOR IS LOCKED.
WHY ARE DOORS ALWAYS LOCKED TO HULK--?
IT CAN'T KEEP HULK OUT! NOT WHEN SOMETHING HE WANTS IS INSIDE!
SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP HULK FIND JARELLA--
NOW HULK REMEMBERS!
BUT NOT EVERYTHING--
STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT SOMETHING IS!
BOTTLES! PLACE IS FULL OF BOTTLES.
ALL DIFFERENT SIZES, ALL DIFFERENT COLORED STUFF INSIDE THEM.
HOW CAN BOTTLES HELP HULK FIND JARELLA?
HOW?!
EVEN IF ONE CAN, HOW WILL HULK KNOW WHICH IT IS OUT OF ALL THESE?
MAYBE FUNNY MARKINGS ON THEM COULD TELL HULK--
--IF ONLY HULK UNDERSTOOD WHAT THEY MEAN.
THERE IS SO MUCH HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND...
BUT THERE IS PART OF YOU THAT DOES UNDERSTAND, HULK. A VERY SMALL PART THAT IS STILL BRUCE BANNER, PHYSICIST. AND THAT PART RECALLS A CERTAIN DAY...!


ON THAT DAY, YOUR JARELLA CAME TO EARTH... AND IN DOING SO, ACCIDENTALLY RIPPED THE FABRIC OF TIME AND SPACE...WITH CONSEQUENCES DIRE INDEED!*
--AND YOU SAY THAT IF THE LADY ISN'T RETURNED TO HER OWN MICRO-COSMIC WORLD--
--OUR SUN GOES NOVA, BANNER?!
AND WHEN IT COMES TO REDUCING PEOPLE IN SIZE, WHO BETTER TO CONSULT THAN, HANK PYM--THE ORIGINAL ANT-MAN HIMSELF!
CAN YOU HELP US, HANK?
*SEE HULK #148. --STAN.

EYEBALLING OUR INSECT FRIENDS ON THEIR OWN LEVEL IS STILL A LONG WAY FROM REACHING A WORLD TUCKED INSIDE AN ATOM.
NOT THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I LEARNED THAT QUITE A WHILE BACK--
DISCOVERED A SUPER-POWERFUL VARIANT ON MY SIZE-CHANGING GASES--A SERUM.

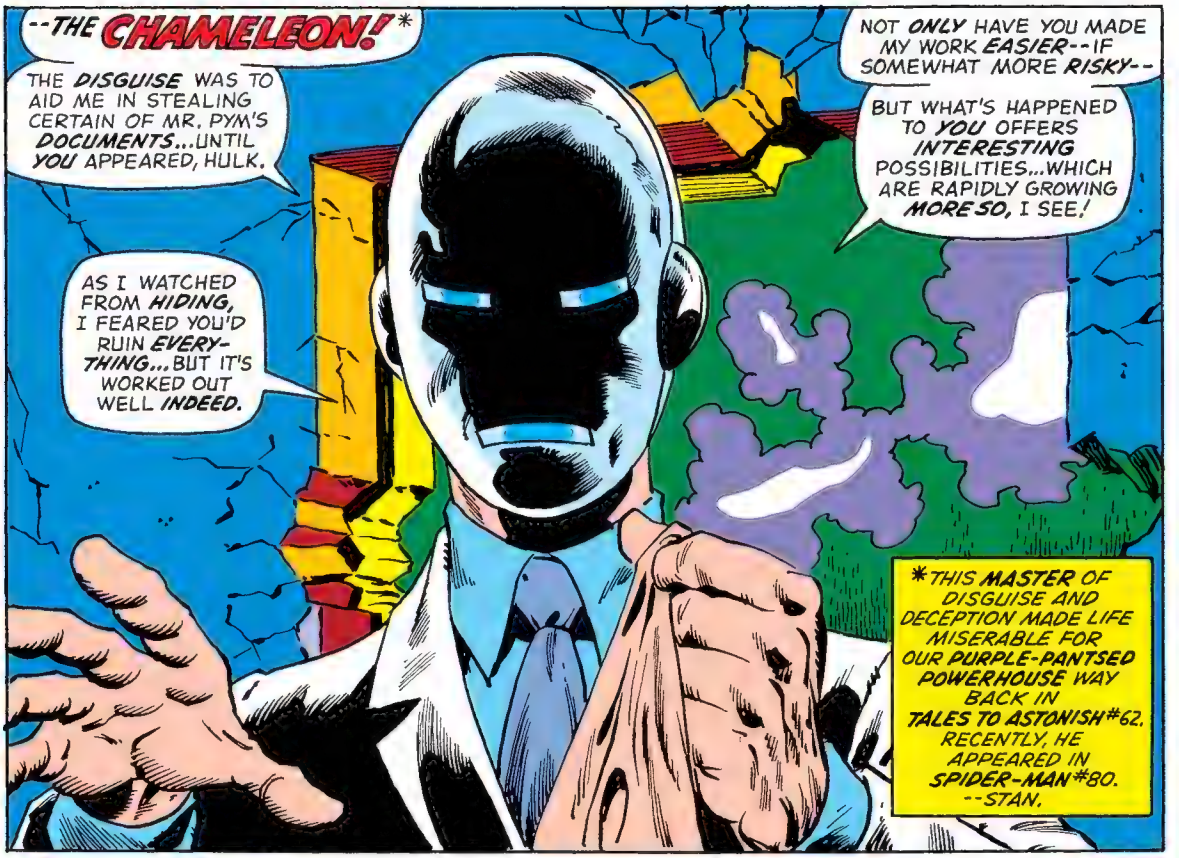
USED IT TO BAIL OUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR WHEN DR. DOOM SHRUNK THEM DOWN INTO A MICRO-VERSE!*
BUT IT WASN'T TRULY PERFECTED, AND MORE URGENT PROBLEMS KEPT ME FROM EXPERIMENTING FURTHER.
SERUM'S LOCKED THE VAULT AT MY LAB. BUT FOR THIS, WE NEED SOMETHING FAR MORE CERTAIN--
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A ONE-TIME THING...IT'S GOT TO BE FOUND!
*THE METHUSELAH AWARD TO ALL WHO CAN RECALL F.F. #16.--STAN.

THAT A METHOD--WORKABLE ONCE--WAS FOUND MEANS NOTHING TO YOU, HULK. BUT THIS SMALL MEMORY OF BRUCE BANNER'S HAS LINGERED--
...HAS NAGGED AT YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS UNTIL NOW... IT SURFACES.
"SERUM'S LOCKED IN THE VAULT AT MY LAB!"

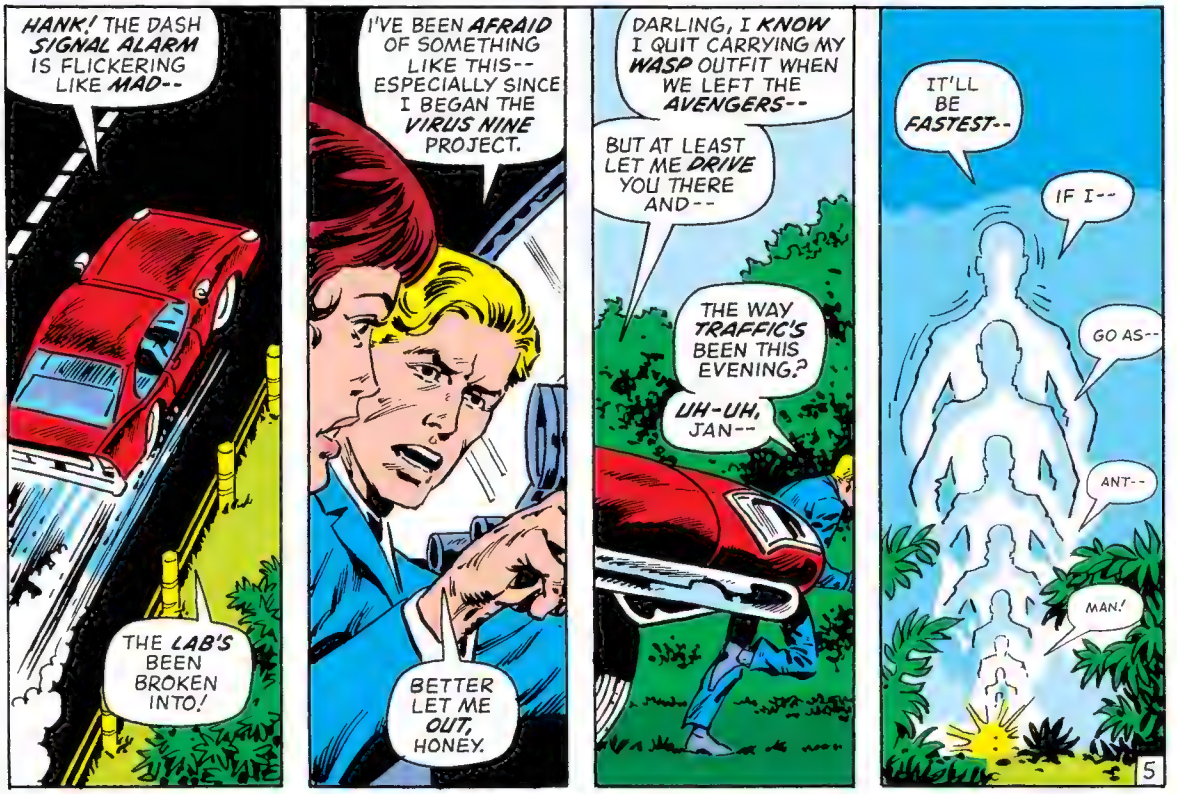
AND, AS IS YOUR NATURE, IT IS NOT LONG--
RRAAK!
--FROM THOUGHT TO ACTION!

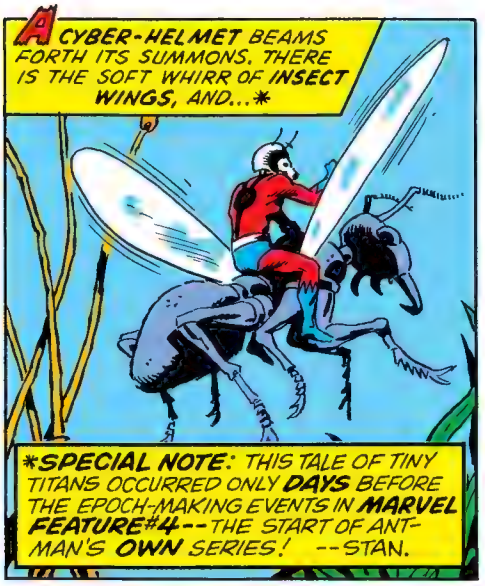
MORE BOTTLES--!
BUT WHICH IS SERUM HULK NEEDS? WHICH?!
3

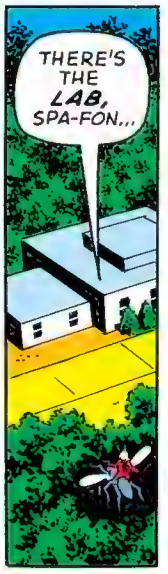
BUT, AS ONE MEMORY HAS PROVEN, YOU ARE NEVER ENTIRELY SEPARATED FROM THE MAN YOU WERE BEFORE GAMMA RAYS MADE YOU MONSTER AS WELL. SO NOW PERHAPS THE HAND OF BRUCE BANNER GUIDES YOU AGAIN. FOR YOUR GAZE SETTLES ON ONE VIAL...
AND YOU SEIZE IT--
AND DRINK IT--
AND KNOW PAIN! DEEP, RACKING, DEVASTATING--
DOWNING YOU SURELY AS THE POLE-AX FALLS THE GREAT OX...
THEN, AS YOUR VISION SWIMS AND CONSCIOUSNESS FADES...
YOU HEAR THE LAUGHTER, SOFT...BUT CRUELLY MOCKING.
Y-YOU...! HULK KNOWS YOU...! REMEMBERS FROM LONG, LONG AGO...
DAYS WHEN HULK WAS WITH AVENGERS...
YOU ARE PYM...! ONE CALLED... ANTMAAAANNN
CORRECT, YOU RIDICULOUS GREEN GARGOYLE!
I AM HENRY PYM.
I AM WHOEVER I CHOOSE TO BE--
THOUGH YOUR BRUTISH BUMBLING HAS MADE IT CONVENIENTLY UNNECESSARY FOR ME TO BE ANY OTHER THAN MYSELF--
4


--THE CHAMELEON!*
THE DISGUISE WAS TO AID ME IN STEALING CERTAIN OF MR. PYM'S DOCUMENTS...UNTIL YOU APPEARED, HULK.
AS I WATCHED FROM HIDING, I FEARED YOU'D RUIN EVERY-THING...BUT IT'S WORKED OUT WELL INDEED.
NOT ONLY HAVE YOU MADE MY WORK EASIER--IF SOMEWHAT MORE RISKY--
BUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU OFFERS INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES...WHICH ARE RAPIDLY GROWING MORE SO, I SEE!
*THIS MASTER OF DISGUISE AND DECEPTION MADE LIFE MISERABLE FOR OUR PURPLE-PANTSED POWERHOUSE WAY BACK IN TALES TO ASTONISH #62. RECENTLY, HE APPEARED IN SPIDER-MAN #80. --STAN.

BUT, FROM THE CHAMELEON'S POINT OF VIEW, THERE ARE ALSO DRAWBACKS TO THE HULK'S RATHER DIRECT STYLE OF BREAKING AND ENTERING. FOR INSTANCE: TWO TERRIFIED PASSERS-BY ARE BY NOW ALREADY SUMMONING THE POLICE...AND IN A FAST-MOVING CAR ON THE LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY...


HANK! THE DASH SIGNAL ALARM IS FLICKERING LIKE MAD--
THE LAB'S BEEN BROKEN INTO!
I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS--ESPECIALLY SINCE I BEGAN THE VIRUS NINE PROJECT.
BETTER LET ME OUT, HONEY.
DARLING, I KNOW I QUIT CARRYING MY WASP OUTFIT WHEN WE LEFT THE AVENGERS--
BUT AT LEAST LET ME DRIVE YOU THERE AND--
THE WAY TRAFFIC'S BEEN THIS EVENING?
UH-UH, JAN--
IT'LL BE FASTEST--
IF I--
GO AS--
ANT--
MAN!


A CYBER-HELMET BEAMS FORTH ITS SUMMONS. THERE IS THE SOFT WHIRR OF INSECT WINGS, AND...*
*SPECIAL NOTE: THIS TALE OF TINY TITANS OCCURRED ONLY DAYS BEFORE THE EPOCH-MAKING EVENTS IN MARVEL FEATURE#4--THE START OF ANT-MAN'S OWN SERIES! --STAN.


THERE'S THE LAB, SPA-FON...

CORRECTION, NOBLE STEED--WHAT'S LEFT OF THE LAB!
ONE THING'S SURE--WHOEVER WAS IN HERE WASN'T EXACTLY A SNEAK THIEF!
BUT THEY MANAGED TO RIP MY VIRUS NINE RESEARCH PAPERS FROM THE VAULT FILES, AND--
WAIT A SEC'! THIS BOTTLE WOULD HAVE HELD MORE THAN WHAT'S SPILLED HERE--

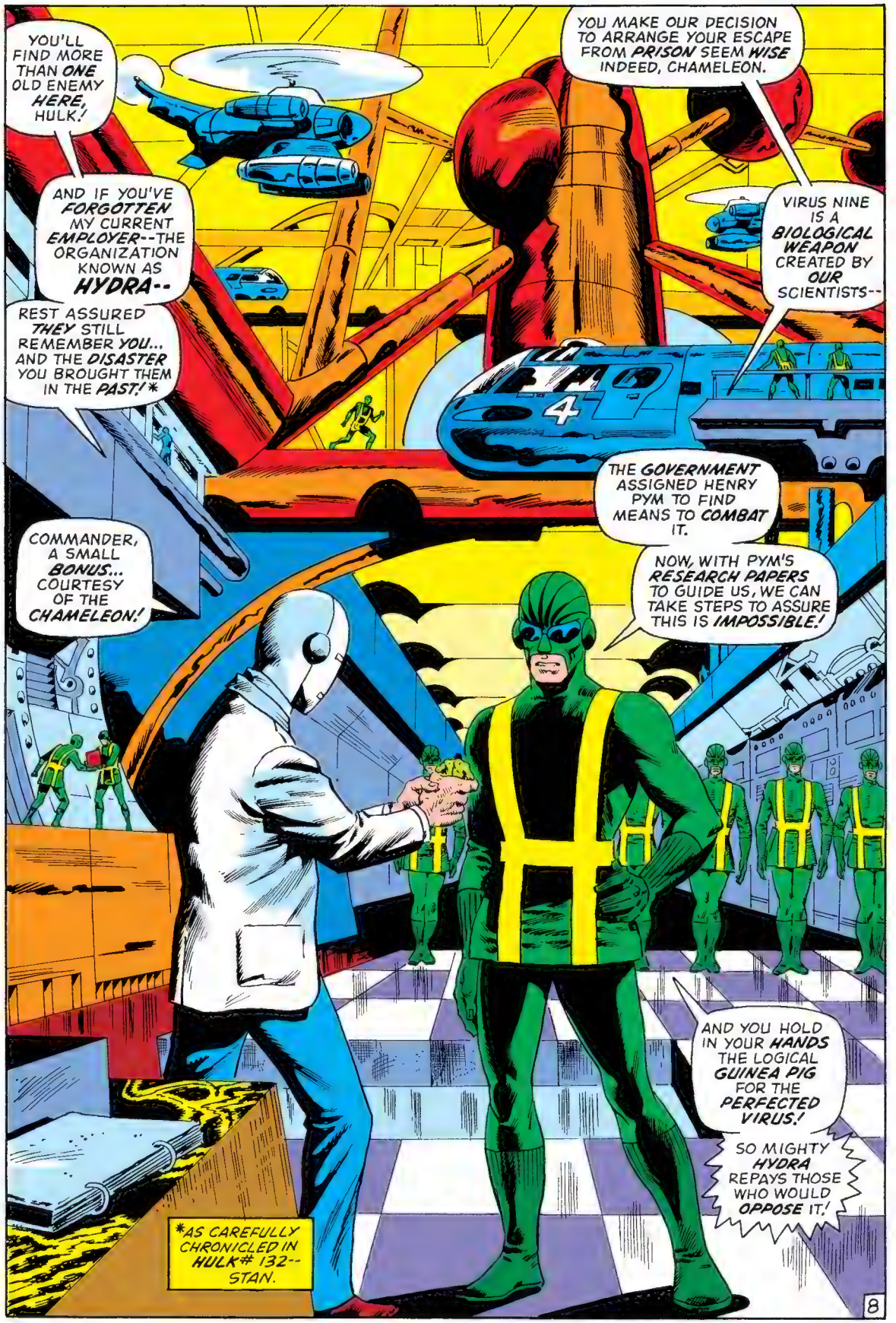
IT'S THE SIZE-REDUCING SERUM I USED TO REACH THE F.F. IN THAT SUB-ATOMIC WORLD.
THERE HASN'T BEEN TIME FOR IT TO EVAPORATE YET--
WHICH MEANS SOMEONE MAY HAVE DRUNK IT!

PRETTY FAR OUT ESCAPE PLAN.. IF THAT'S WHAT IT WAS!
EXCEPT, AFTER I USED THE SERUM THAT ONE TIME, IT PRODUCED SOME NASTY SIDE EFFECTS...PROMPTED ME TO PUT IT ASIDE.
WHOEVER TOOK IT MAY FIND HIS ESCAPE ROUGHER THAN EXPECTED!
A FEW QUICK TESTS SHOULD TELL.

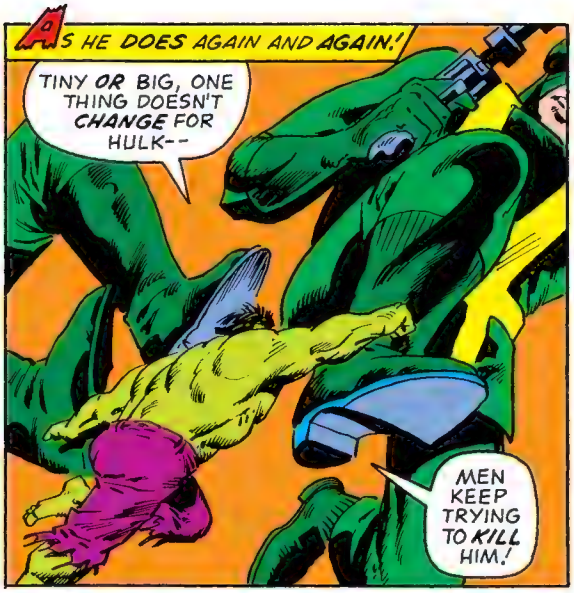
LORD! IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT. AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THE SERUM'S DETERIORATED.
ITS ELEMENTS HAVE BECOME UNSTABLE!
THERE'S NO WAY TO GAUGE WHAT KIND OF EFFECT IT WILL HAVE NOW--
--EXCEPT THAT IT'S GOING TO BE BAD!

AND, THOUGH HE HASN'T HEARD HENRY PYM'S WORDS, A WAKING HULK IS ALREADY EXPERIENCING THEIR TRUTH!
DARKNESS! ALL ABOUT HULK...AND WHOLE WORLD SHAKES!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO HULK?!

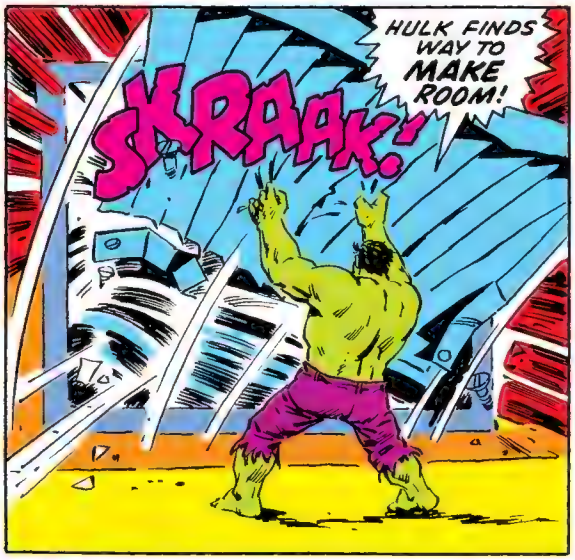
HUH? NOW SHAKING STOPS! AND--
HULK CAN HEAR VOICES.
SOUND FAINT... FAR AWAY.
STUFF HULK DRANK DIDN'T WORK!
INSTEAD, HURT HULK... MADE HIM SICK!
SO THE HUMANS COULD FIND HIM, PUT HIM IN CAGE AGAIN! BUT THEY WON'T KEEP HULK!
EVEN IN DARK, EVEN STILL A LITTLE WEAK--
HULK WILL FIND WALL AND--
W-WHAT--?!
CEILING OF CAGE MOVES--!
LIGHT! SO MUCH LIGHT HITTING HULK--BLINDING HIM --CAN'T!
NO! NOW HULK SEES, BUT--IT CAN'T BE!
SERUM HAS MADE HULK CRAZY!
BUT WHOSE SANITY WOULD NOT BE TESTED? TO HAVE WALKED THE WORLD AS A TITAN--
AND THEN BE EFFORTLESSLY PLUCKED FROM STYGIAN DARKNESS TO FIND ONESELF--
--A DOLL!
HULK HAS BEEN MADE TINY... LIKE SOME BABY'S TOY!
EXACTLY, MONSTER. AND DESTINED, I SUSPECT--
--FOR SOME RATHER ROUGH PLAY!
YOU! YOU WEAR SAME CLOTHES AS MAN HULK THOUGHT WAS PYM.
BUT YOU ARE NOT PYM. YOU ARE OLD ENEMY OF HULK'S--
HULK JUST CAN'T-- REMEMBER YOUR NAME!
7


YOU'LL FIND MORE THAN ONE OLD ENEMY HERE, HULK!
AND IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN MY CURRENT EMPLOYER--THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS HYDRA--
REST ASSURED THEY STILL REMEMBER YOU... AND THE DISASTER YOU BROUGHT THEM IN THE PAST!*
YOU MAKE OUR DECISION TO ARRANGE YOUR ESCAPE FROM PRISON SEEM WISE INDEED, CHAMELEON.
VIRUS NINE IS A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON CREATED BY OUR SCIENTISTS--
THE GOVERNMENT ASSIGNED HENRY PYM TO FIND MEANS TO COMBAT IT.
NOW, WITH PYM'S RESEARCH PAPERS TO GUIDE US, WE CAN TAKE STEPS TO ASSURE THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
COMMANDER, A SMALL BONUS... COURTESY OF THE CHAMELEON!
AND YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS THE LOGICAL GUINEA PIG FOR THE PERFECTED VIRUS!
SO MIGHTY HYDRA REPAYS THOSE WHO WOULD OPPOSE IT!
*AS CAREFULLY CHRONICLED IN HULK# 132-- STAN.

AS I WATCHED THIS FORMER MENACE SHRINK TO THE SQUIRMING, HELPLESS BUG WE NOW BEHOLD--
I KNEW HYDRA WOULD BE PLEASED FOR A CHANCE AT HIM.
ONE LITTLE GREEN GUINEA PIG COMING UP, COMMANDER ...WITH THE CHAMELEON'S BLESSING!
HULK MAY BE TINY--SERUM MAY HAVE MADE HIM WEAK--
BUT NOT THAT WEAK! NOT HELPLESS!
I CAN'T HOLD HIM! W-WHAT--?!
HULK IS OVER SHOCK AT WHAT HAPPENED--
NOW HULK IS MAD!
WOM!
GUARDS! QUICKLY, YOU FOOLS--
USE YOUR BLASTERS!
THE MOMENT HE CLEARS THE CHAMELEON, WE'LL--
NOW!
MISSED! HE'S SO BLASTED SMALL... AND FAST!
IT'S LIKE TRYING TO HIT A GNAT WITH A CANNON!
POW!
WOK!
ONLY THIS GNAT HITS BACK--
9


AS HE DOES AGAIN AND AGAIN!
TINY OR BIG, ONE THING DOESN'T CHANGE FOR HULK--
MEN KEEP TRYING TO KILL HIM!

BUT ONCE THEY WERE LIKE ANTS TO HULK...NOW HULK IS THE ANT.
CAN'T STAND AND FIGHT LIKE WHEN BIG... MUST KEEP RUNNING!
BUT, MEN HAVE DRIVEN HULK TO WALL--
NO MORE ROOM TO RUN! UNLESS--


HULK FINDS WAY TO MAKE ROOM!
SKRAAK!

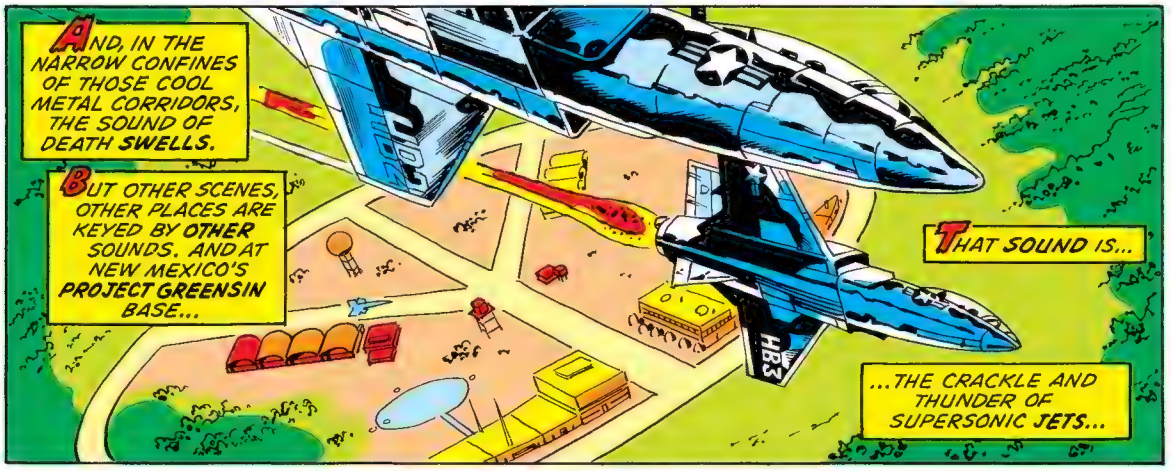
THE BRUTE'S TORN AWAY THE VENT...HE'S ESCAPING INTO THE AIR-CONDITIONING CONDUITS!
SIR, ONE OF THOSE COULD LEAD HIM TO THE SURFACE... AND THE STREET!
THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT, DOLTS?
GET AGENT W UP FROM THE LAB...WITH HIS CHARGES!

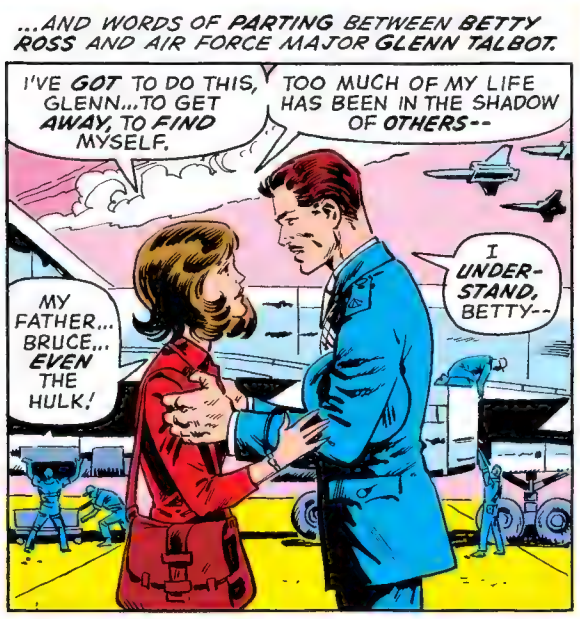
AND, IN SECONDS, A LONE FIGURE RUSHES THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND HYDRA COMPLEX... BEARING A BURDEN OF NO SEEMING DISTINCTION.
UNIT COMMANDER! HERE I AM...AS ORDERED, SIR!
THE BOX, AGENT W... GIVE ME THE BOX!

HULK COULD FEEL COOL AIR RUSHING FROM OPENINGS IN METAL COVER--
THOUGHT THERE'D BE SOME KIND OF TUNNEL BEHIND IT!
AND TUNNEL IS TOO SMALL FOR MEN AND THEIR GUNS!
BUT...WHAT IS THAT NOISE HULK HEARS? COMING FROM BACK IN ROOM...

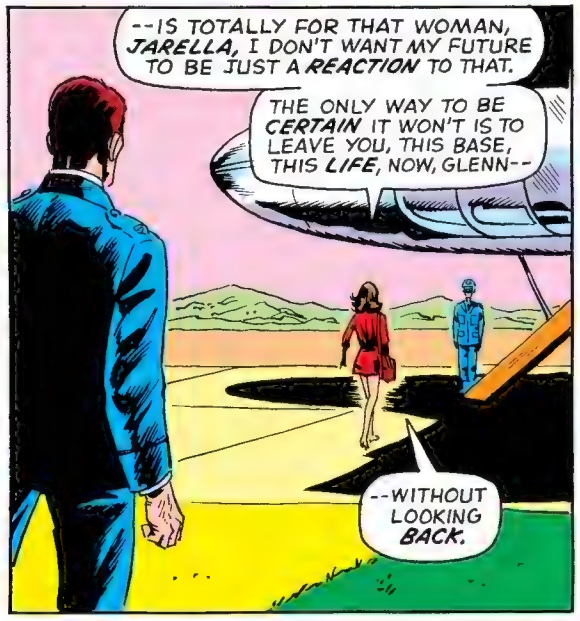
THAT **NOISE**, HULK--THE SHRILLING **SQUEALS**, THE SKITTERING OF **CLAWS** ON METAL--THAT COMMINGLED **SOUND** WHICH ECHOES AND VIBRATES UP THE VENTILATION SYSTEM TO RING OMINOUSLY IN YOUR STRAINING **EARS**--THAT IS THE SOUND OF **DEATH**, HULK!

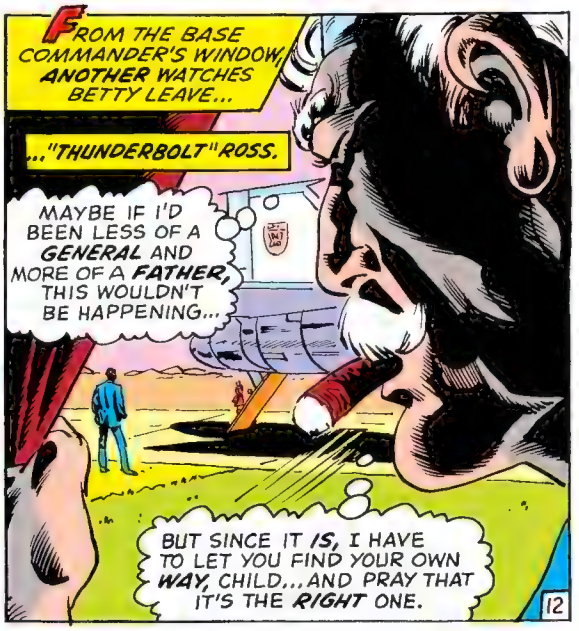
GO, MY STARVING FRIENDS! YOU WHO HAVE BEEN SO LONG CAGED IN OUR LABORATORY--
YOU WHO WERE TO HAVE BEEN A VANGUARD IN THE SPREADING OF VIRUS NINE--
--PART OF THE GREAT NEW ATTACK ON AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD, LULLED BY THE SEEMING DEBACLE WE SUFFERED IN AMERICA'S WEST. *
NOW, THAT SHALL BE DONE BY OTHERS, WHILE IN THE NAME OF SUPREME HYDRA--
--YOU DESTROY THE HULK!
*A DEBACLE DUTIFULLY DETAILED IN CAPTAIN AMERICA #147-148. --STAN.

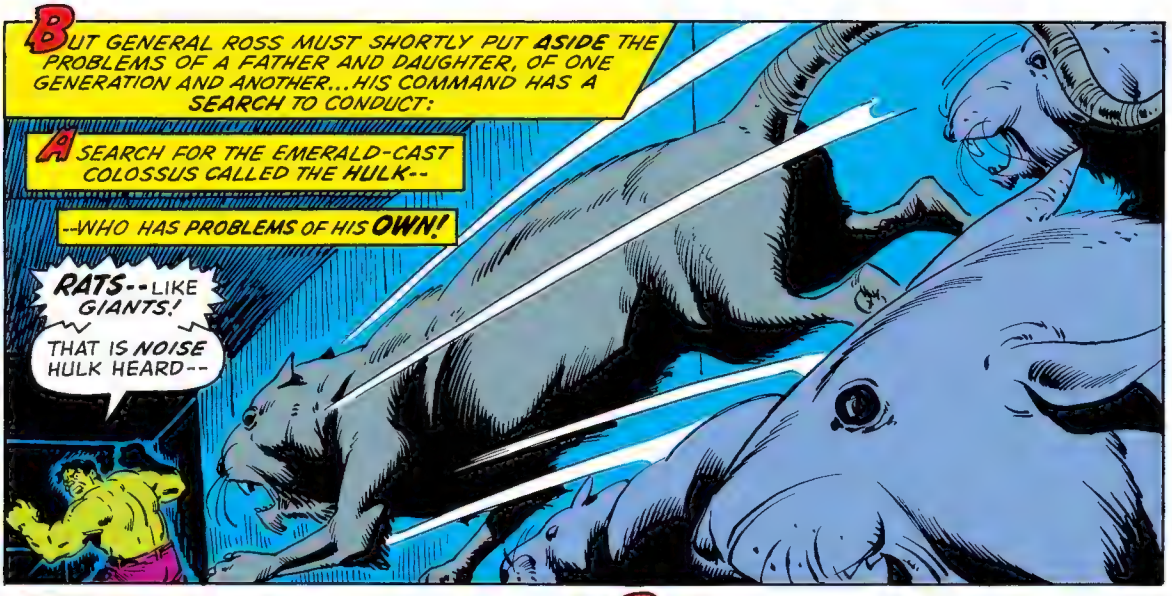

AND, IN THE NARROW CONFINES OF THOSE COOL METAL CORRIDORS, THE SOUND OF DEATH SWELLS.
BUT OTHER SCENES, OTHER PLACES ARE KEYED BY OTHER SOUNDS. AND AT NEW MEXICO'S PROJECT GREENSIN BASE...
THAT SOUND IS...
...THE CRACKLE AND THUNDER OF SUPERSONIC JETS...


...AND WORDS OF PARTING BETWEEN BETTY ROSS AND AIR FORCE MAJOR GLENN TALBOT.
I'VE GOT TO DO THIS, GLENN...TO GET AWAY, TO FIND MYSELF.
TOO MUCH OF MY LIFE HAS BEEN IN THE SHADOW OF OTHERS--
I UNDER-STAND, BETTY--
MY FATHER... BRUCE... EVEN THE HULK!

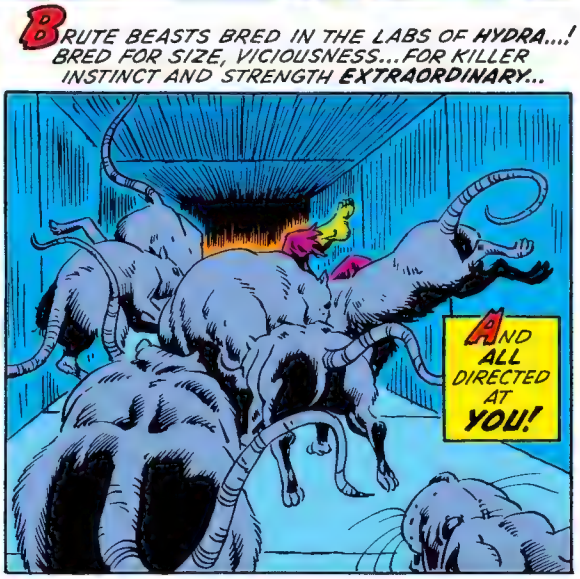
BUT I'D HOPED THERE MIGHT BE MORE TIME FOR YOU AND ME TO TALK, TO--
THERE WILL BE, GLENN...BUT LATER, WHEN I KNOW MY OWN FEELINGS BETTER.
EVEN IF BRUCE'S LOVE, ALONG WITH THE HULK'S--

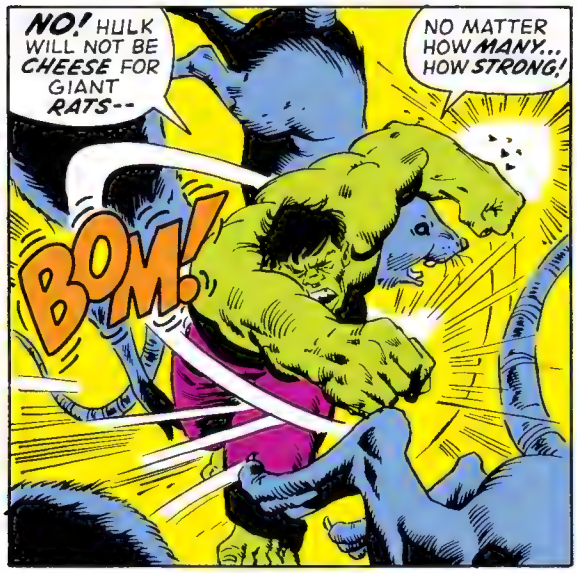

--IS TOTALLY FOR THAT WOMAN, JARELLA, I DON'T WANT MY FUTURE TO BE JUST A REACTION TO THAT.
THE ONLY WAY TO BE CERTAIN IT WON'T IS TO LEAVE YOU, THIS BASE, THIS LIFE, NOW, GLENN--
--WITHOUT LOOKING BACK.


FROM THE BASE COMMANDER'S WINDOW, ANOTHER WATCHES BETTY LEAVE...
..."THUNDERBOLT" ROSS.
MAYBE IF I'D BEEN LESS OF A GENERAL AND MORE OF A FATHER, THIS WOULDN'T BE HAPPENING...
BUT SINCE IT IS, I HAVE TO LET YOU FIND YOUR OWN WAY, CHILD...AND PRAY THAT IT'S THE RIGHT ONE.

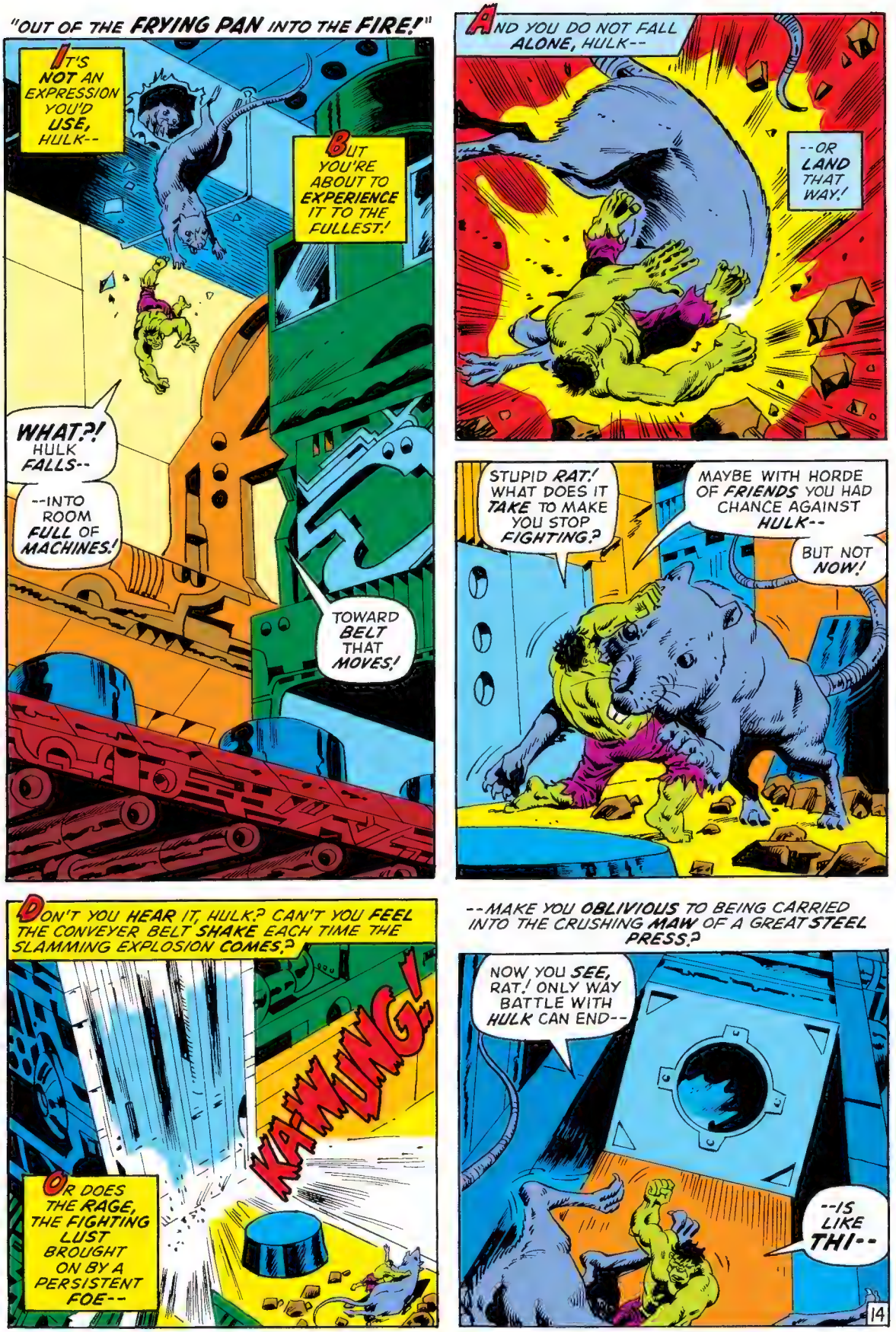

BUT GENERAL ROSS MUST SHORTLY PUT ASIDE THE PROBLEMS OF A FATHER AND DAUGHTER, OF ONE GENERATION AND ANOTHER...HIS COMMAND HAS A SEARCH TO CONDUCT:
A SEARCH FOR THE EMERALD-CAST COLOSSUS CALLED THE HULK--
--WHO HAS PROBLEMS OF HIS OWN!
RATS--LIKE GIANTS!
THAT IS NOISE HULK HEARD--

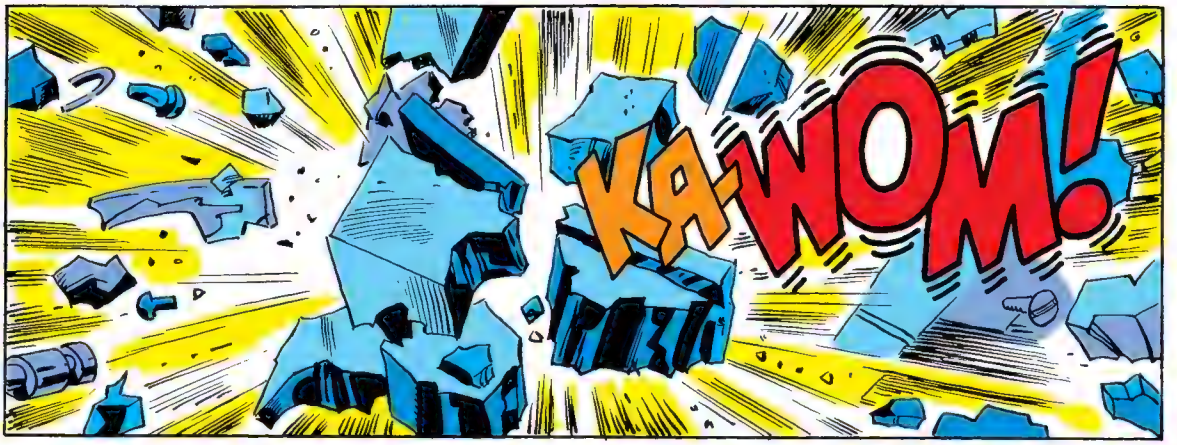
YOU HEARD THEM, HULK...AND NOW YOU FEEL THEIR FURY!
SKREEEEE!


BRUTE BEASTS BRED IN THE LABS OF HYDRA...! BRED FOR SIZE, VICIOUSNESS...FOR KILLER INSTINCT AND STRENGTH EXTRAORDINARY...
AND ALL DIRECTED AT YOU!


NO! HULK WILL NOT BE CHEESE FOR GIANT RATS--
NO MATTER HOW MANY... HOW STRONG!
BOM!

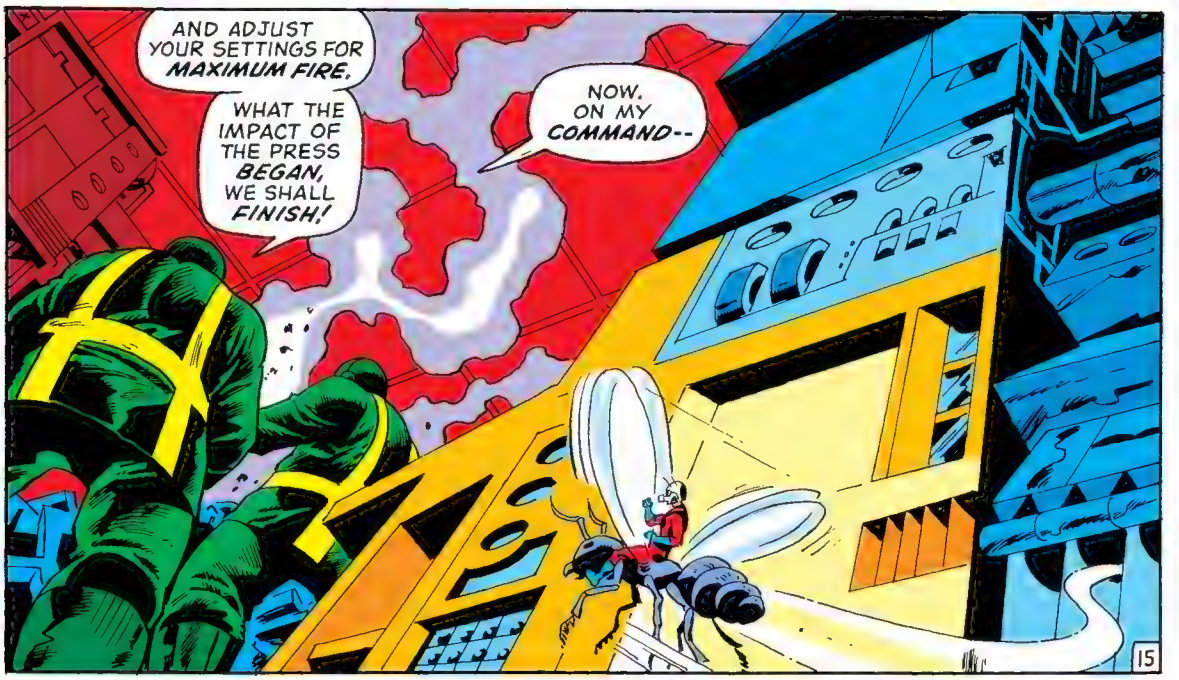
AND IF HULK CANNOT SMASH THROUGH SEA OF TEETH AND CLAWS--
WILL FLING BODY AGAINST WALL--
--AND SMASH THAT!


"OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE!"
IT'S NOT AN EXPRESSION YOU'D USE, HULK--
BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE IT TO THE FULLEST!
WHAT?! HULK FALLS--
--INTO ROOM FULL OF MACHINES!
TOWARD BELT THAT MOVES!
AND YOU DO NOT FALL ALONE, HULK--
--OR LAND THAT WAY!
STUPID RAT! WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE YOU STOP FIGHTING?
MAYBE WITH HORDE OF FRIENDS YOU HAD CHANCE AGAINST HULK--
BUT NOT NOW!
DON'T YOU HEAR IT, HULK? CAN'T YOU FEEL THE CONVEYER BELT SHAKE EACH TIME THE SLAMMING EXPLOSION COMES?
KA-KUNG!
OR DOES THE RAGE, THE FIGHTING LUST BROUGHT ON BY A PERSISTENT FOE--
--MAKE YOU OBLIVIOUS TO BEING CARRIED INTO THE CRUSHING MAW OF A GREAT STEEL PRESS?
NOW YOU SEE, RAT! ONLY WAY BATTLE WITH HULK CAN END--
--IS LIKE THI--


KA-WOM!

THE SOUND CAME FROM HERE, BROTHERS OF HYDRA--WEAPONS MANUFACTURING SECTION! BUT WHAT--?
COMMANDER! THE UNIVERSAL COMPONENT PRESS--LOOK AT IT!
IT WAS CONSTRUCTED OF ALLOYS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND EARTHQUAKE FORCE--

--NOW IT IS RUBBLE! YET THAT GREEN FLEA WE PURSUE--
--APPEARS INTACT, MERELY STUNNED!
THAT WILL PROVE ENOUGH, AGENT Q.
AIM ALL BLASTERS AT HIS PROSTRATE FORM--

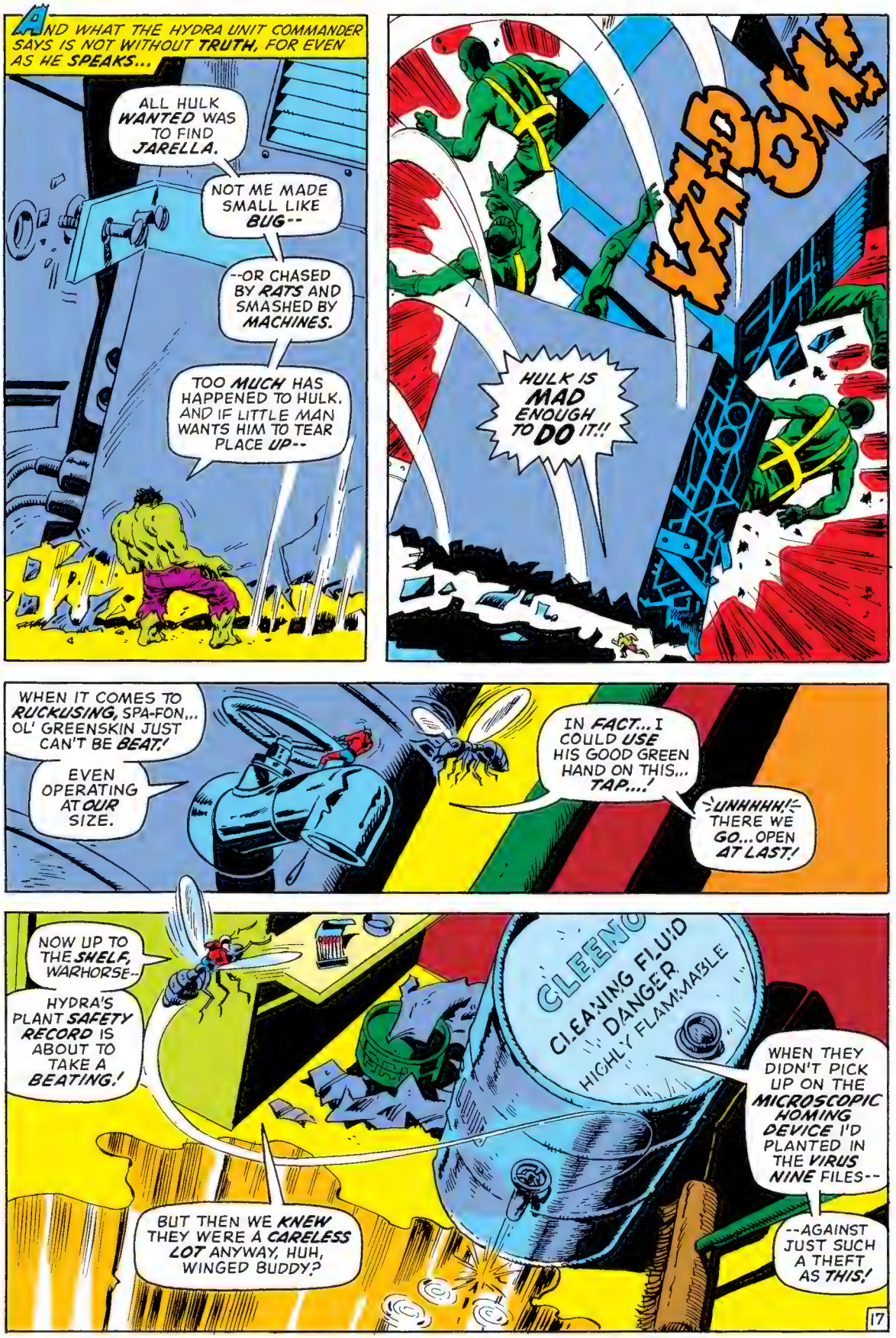

AND ADJUST YOUR SETTINGS FOR MAXIMUM FIRE.
WHAT THE IMPACT OF THE PRESS BEGAN, WE SHALL FINISH!
NOW, ON MY COMMAND--

FIRE!
WHAT?! SOMETHING KNOCKED THAT MINI-MONSTER CLEAR OF OUR BLASTS!
BIK-KOW!

VERY PERCEPTIVE, GOGGLES!
NOW FOR SIXTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF WINDEX--
IS IT THAT SAME SOMETHING NOW RICOCHETING OFF YOU AND YOUR FRIEND?
BRAK
WOK

GONE! WHATEVER IT WAS IS GONE!
AND THE HULK HAS VANISHED FROM VIEW AS WELL!
YOU! HULK KNOWS YOU--REMEMBERS YOU--ALL BUT YOUR NAME!
ANY ANSWERS BETTER WAIT, HIGHPOCKETS.
HOW DID YOU FIND HULK... KNOW TO SAVE HIM?
UNTIL THESE HYDRA HOTSHOTS ARE COOLED, NO ONE IS SAVED.
TO DO THAT, WE NEED A KING-SIZED RUCKUS--

AND SINCE THAT'S DEFINITELY YOUR DEPARTMENT... I'LL DO SOME DIVERSION DUTY!
IT'S ANT-MAN... HENRY PYM!
SOMEHOW HE'S TRACED THE FILES HERE--
THERE! FLYING UP FROM THE RUBBLE--
--AND NO DOUBT RESCUED THE HULK TO AID IN RECOVERING THEM!


AND WHAT THE HYDRA UNIT COMMANDER SAYS IS NOT WITHOUT TRUTH, FOR EVEN AS HE SPEAKS...
ALL HULK WANTED WAS TO FIND JARELLA.
NOT ME MADE SMALL LIKE BUG--
--OR CHASED BY RATS AND SMASHED BY MACHINES.
TOO MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO HULK. AND IF LITTLE MAN WANTS HIM TO TEAR PLACE UP--
KA-POW!
HULK IS MAD ENOUGH TO DO IT!!
WHEN IT COMES TO RUCKUSING, SPA-FON... OL' GREENSKIN JUST CAN'T BE BEAT!
EVEN OPERATING AT OUR SIZE.
IN FACT... I COULD USE HIS GOOD GREEN HAND ON THIS... TAP...!
UNHHHH! THERE WE GO... OPEN AT LAST!
NOW UP TO THE SHELF, WARHORSE--
HYDRA'S PLANT SAFETY RECORD IS ABOUT TO TAKE A BEATING!
CLEENO
CLEANING FLU'D
DANGER
HIGHLY FLAMMABLE
WHEN THEY DIDN'T PICK UP ON THE MICROSCOPIC HOMING DEVICE I'D PLANTED IN THE VIRUS NINE FILES--
--AGAINST JUST SUCH A THEFT AS THIS!
BUT THEN WE KNEW THEY WERE A CARELESS LOT ANYWAY, HUH, WINGED BUDDY?

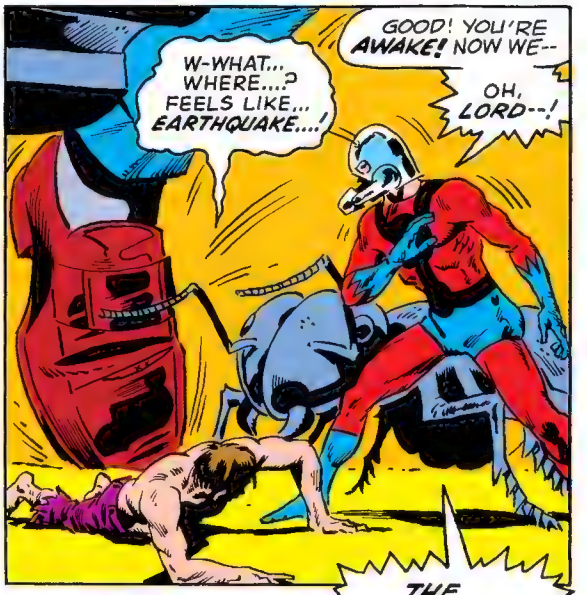
OF COURSE, THE HULK HAVING DRUNK THE SIZE-REDUCING SERUM--
--THREW ME OFF FOR A BIT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT NOW WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK--
OR SOON WILL BE--
--WHEN THIS MATCH HITS THAT CLEANING FLUID!
FIRE!
WHILE MEN IN GREEN SUITS WERE BUSY DODGING MACHINES HULK THREW--
THE LITTLE MAN SPREAD STUFF-THAT-BURNS ALL AROUND THEM!
WHOOOMP!
GREAT HYDRA! FLAMES HAVE CUT OFF ESCAPE....!
SO MUCH SMOKE....! CAN'T BREATHE....!
OKAY, SPA-FON... INTO PHASE TWO!
FIRE CONTR
SPRINKLER SYSTEM
JUST WANT THEM KNOCKED OUT FROM SMOKE--
--NOT FRIED!
WATER FALLING FROM PIPES IN CEILING LIKE RAIN...PUTTING OUT FIRE.
FOR HYDRA, IT'S ALL OVER, HULK--
BUT I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT SERUM YOU DRANK.
DO THAT, PYM... PERHAPS IT WILL PROVIDE THE BREAK I NEED.
HYDRA MAY BE FINISHED, BUT THE CHAMELEON IS NOT!
18

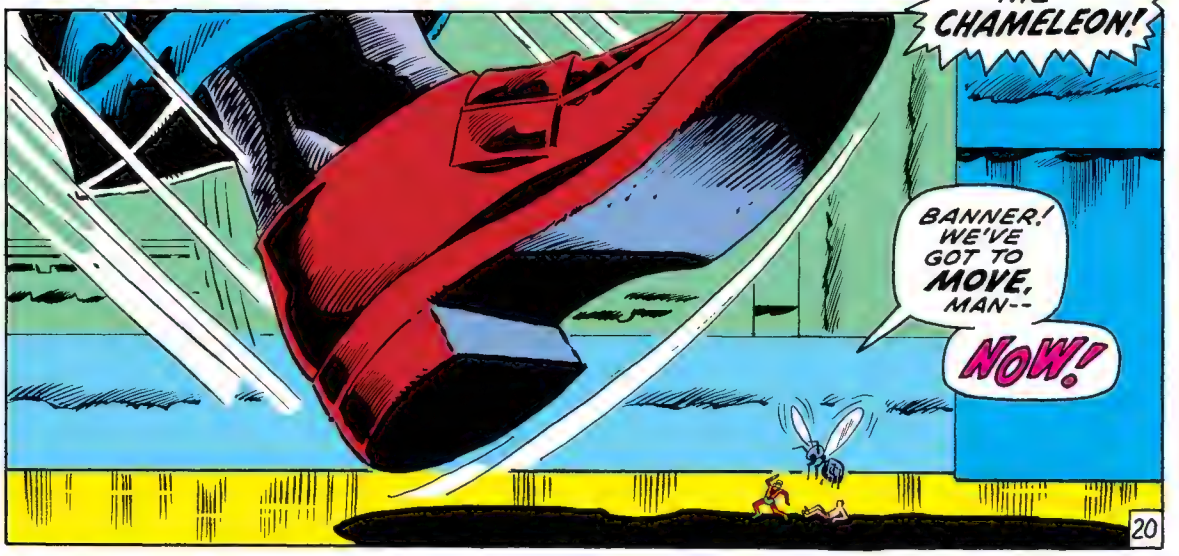
HULK, YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK TO MY LAB!
THAT SERUM IS UNSTABLE. NO PREDICTING WHAT IT WILL DO!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND AN ANTI-DOTE, CHANGE YOU BACK--
BACK? HULK DOESN'T WANT TO BE BACK-- OR ANYWHERE--BUT WITH JARELLA!
YOU WANT TO HELP HULK, HELP HIM REACH HER WORLD AND--
AWRRRRK!
HULK! IS IT--?
PAIN! LIKE BEFORE... WHEN FIRST DRANK STUFF...!
YES, AGAIN IT RACKS YOU, HULK. TEARS AT EVERY FIBER OF YOUR BEING...
DRIVING YOU DOWN, BRINGING YOU LOW, DELIVERING A BLOW SO STRONG...
THAT THIS TIME THE CHEMISTRY OF YOUR BODY YIELDS TO ITS FORCE...
YIELDS AND BECOMES THAT LESSER BEING HIDDEN WITHIN YOU...
BRUCE BANNER!
IT'S CHANGED HIM BACK TO HUMAN FORM. BUT WHAT ELSE HAS IT--?

HE'S SHRINKING MORE! FROM DOLL SIZE RIGHT DOWN TO MY OWN SCALE!
SPA-FON, I HOPE YOU'RE UP TO TOTING A PASSENGER... 'CAUSE IT'S URGENT WE GET BANNER TO THE LAB.

THE SERUM'S INSTABILITY IS COMING OUT IN THE WAY IT REDUCES SIZE--
NO LONGER BY SMOOTH TRANSITION, BUT IN PAINFUL, IRREGULAR STAGES.
AND WITH ONE MORE STAGE--
--BRUCE BANNER COULD BE LOST FOREVER!

THIS IS FAR BETTER THAN I HOPED!
NOT MERELY AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE--
BUT A CHANCE TO CRUSH MY FOES AS WELL... LITERALLY!


W-WHAT... WHERE...? FEELS LIKE... EARTHQUAKE...!
GOOD! YOU'RE AWAKE! NOW WE--
OH, LORD--!


THE CHAMELEON!
BANNER! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE, MAN--
NOW!

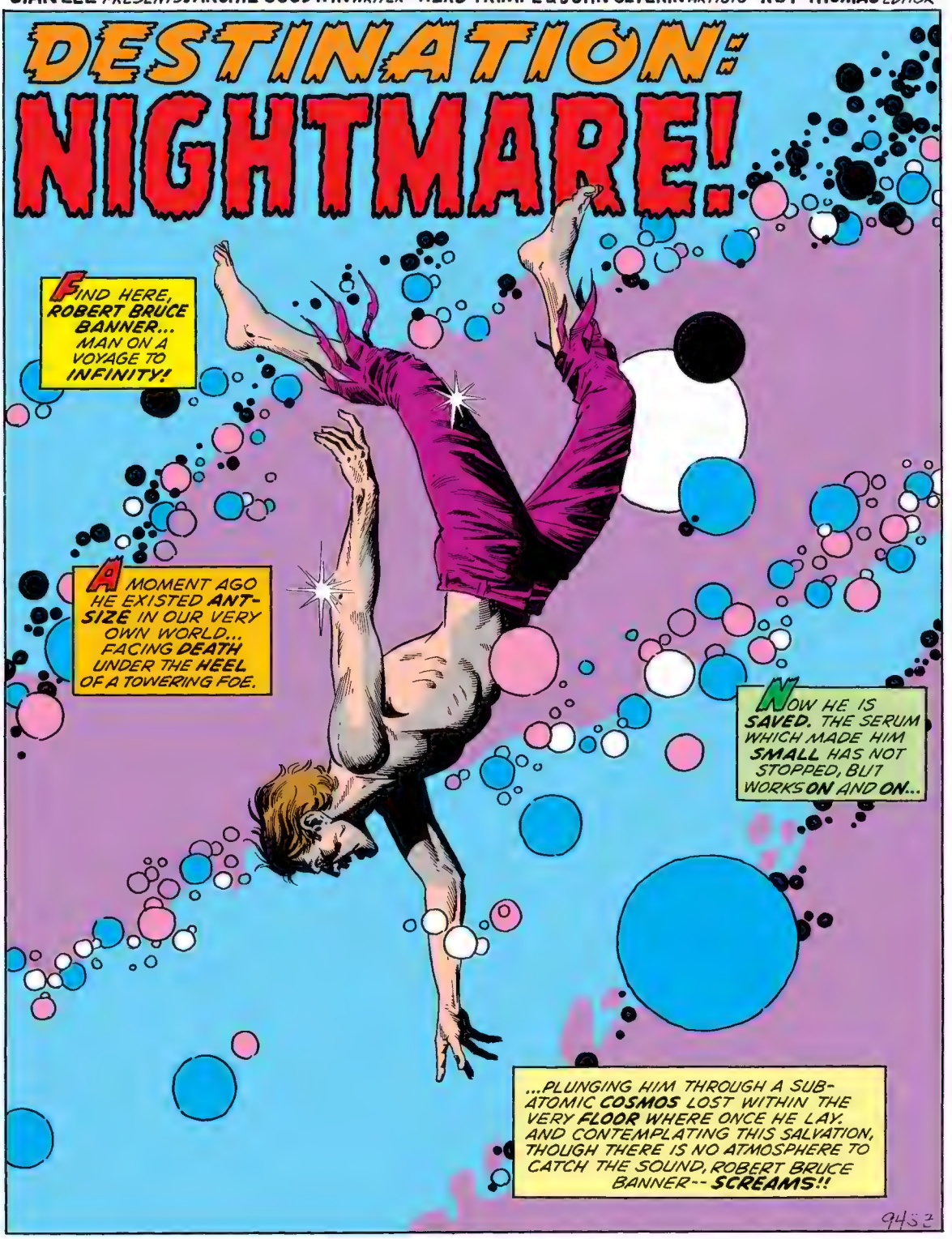
BUT THERE IS NO TIME... NOT THE TIME MERE MEN NEED TO MOVE, TO REACT.
WITH SICKENING IMPACT, A FOOT DESCENDS...
AND AN INSECT SHOWS LOYALTY BEYOND MEASURE.
SPA-FON! YOU KNOCKED ME OUT OF THE WAY--
B-BUT BANNER--!
FLY, PARTNER... FLY! AFTER HIM!
IT'S TOO LATE TO HELP POOR BANNER--
BUT SURE AS THAT CORD'S LYING AHEAD OF US--
--THE CHAMELEON'S NOT GETTING AWAY WITH WHAT HE'S DONE!
PULL, SPA-FON! KEEP THIS THING TAUT, SO--
MY FOOT! W-WHAT--?
SEEMS LIKE TOO NICE A FINISH--
WHRAM!
--FOR THE GUY WHO HELPED HYDRA NEARLY SUCCEED IN LOOSING VIRUS NINE ON THE WORLD--
--AND WHO MURDERED ROBERT BRUCE BANNER!
TO LIVE A TORTURED EXISTENCE AS THE HULK'S ALTER EGO MAY HAVE BEEN ITS OWN SORT OF HELL--
BUT IT DESERVED A BETTER ENDING THAN THIS... FOR BRUCE TO BE WIPED AWAY WITHOUT A TRACE!
NEXT: ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN, ASTUTE ONE! YOU KNOW--THOUGH ANT-MAN DOES NOT--THAT BRUCE BANNER IS ALIVE-- SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE, SOMEWHEN! BUT HOW LONG WILL HE SURVIVE, AMID--
MAYHEM IN A MICROCOSM!

INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢ 155 SEPT 02456
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
A WORLD HE NEVER MADE!
YOU HAVE JOURNEYED FAR TO DIE, MONSTER--
--AT THE HAND OF CAPTAIN AXIS!!
BLITZKRIEG 1972!

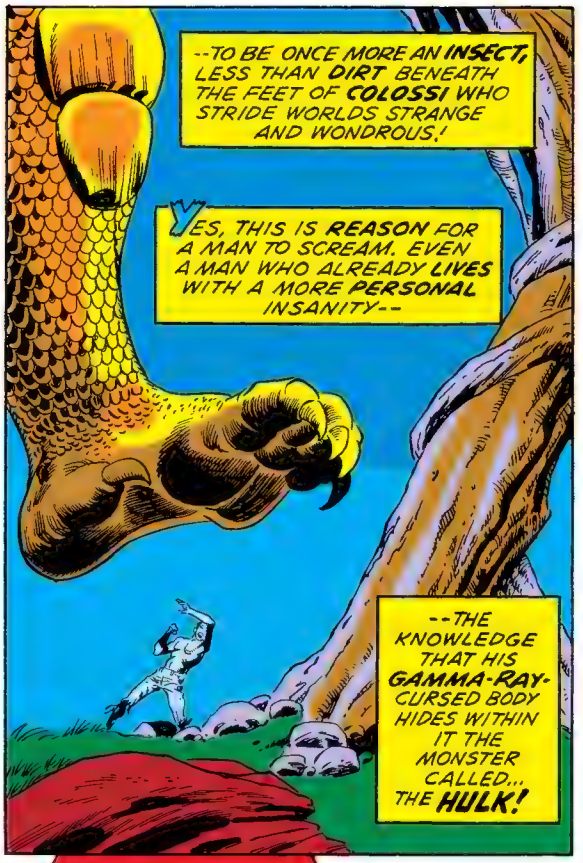
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

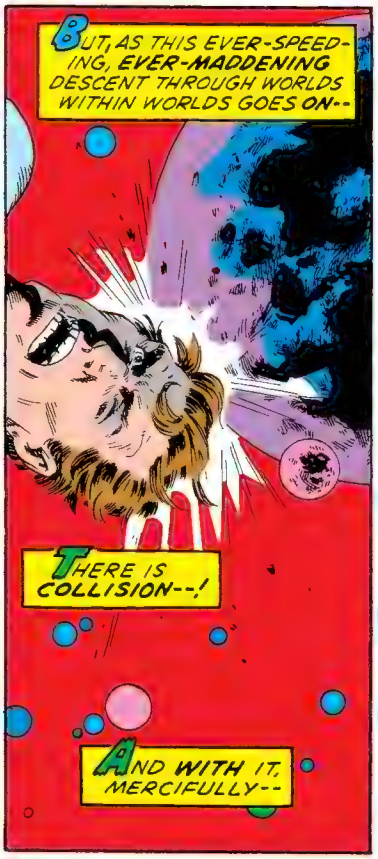
STAN LEE *PRESENTS:* ARCHIE GOODWIN *WRITER* • HERB TRIMPE & JOHN SEVERIN *ARTISTS* • ROY THOMAS *EDITOR*

DESTINATION: NIGHTMARE!

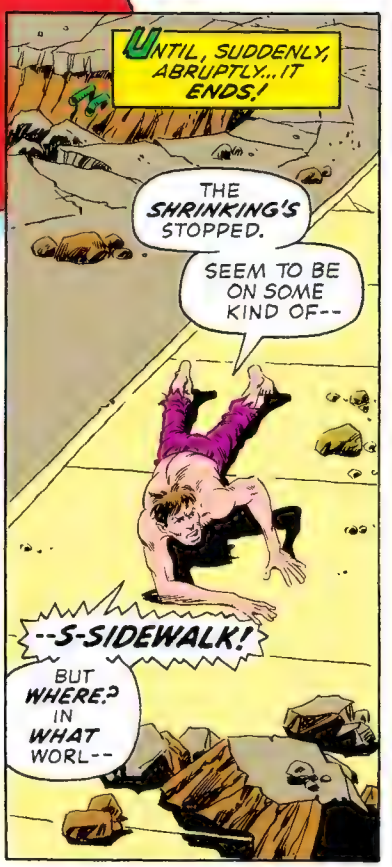

FIND HERE, ROBERT BRUCE BANNER... MAN ON A VOYAGE TO INFINITY!
A MOMENT AGO HE EXISTED ANT-SIZE IN OUR VERY OWN WORLD... FACING DEATH UNDER THE HEEL OF A TOWERING FOE.
NOW HE IS SAVED. THE SERUM WHICH MADE HIM SMALL HAS NOT STOPPED, BUT WORKS ON AND ON...
...PLUNGING HIM THROUGH A SUB-ATOMIC COSMOS LOST WITHIN THE VERY FLOOR WHERE ONCE HE LAY. AND CONTEMPLATING THIS SALVATION, THOUGH THERE IS NO ATMOSPHERE TO CATCH THE SOUND, ROBERT BRUCE BANNER-- SCREAMS!!
9457

AND WHO WOULD **NOT** SCREAM? WHOSE MIND WOULD **NOT** BE PUSHED TO THE BRINK OF **MADNESS?**


--TO BE ONCE MORE AN **INSECT**, LESS THAN **DIRT** BENEATH THE FEET OF **COLOSSI** WHO STRIDE WORLDS STRANGE AND WONDROUS!
YES, THIS IS **REASON** FOR A MAN TO SCREAM. EVEN A MAN WHO ALREADY **LIVES** WITH A MORE **PERSONAL** INSANITY--
--THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HIS **GAMMA-RAY**-CURSED BODY HIDES WITHIN IT THE MONSTER CALLED... THE **HULK!**


BUT, AS THIS EVER-SPEEDING, **EVER-MADDENING** DESCENT THROUGH WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS GOES **ON**--
THERE IS **COLLISION**--!
AND **WITH** IT, MERCIFULLY--

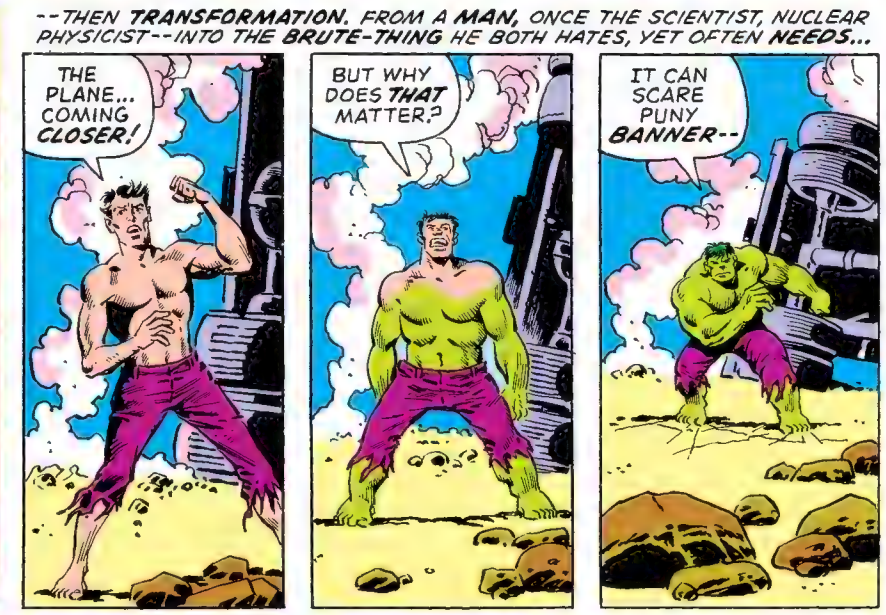
--THERE IS **RELEASE.**
RELEASE FOUND IN **UNCONSCIOUSNESS**--
SO THAT THE **REMAINDER** OF ROBERT BRUCE BANNER'S JOURNEY IS **BLANKNESS,** UNFELT **DRIFTING**--

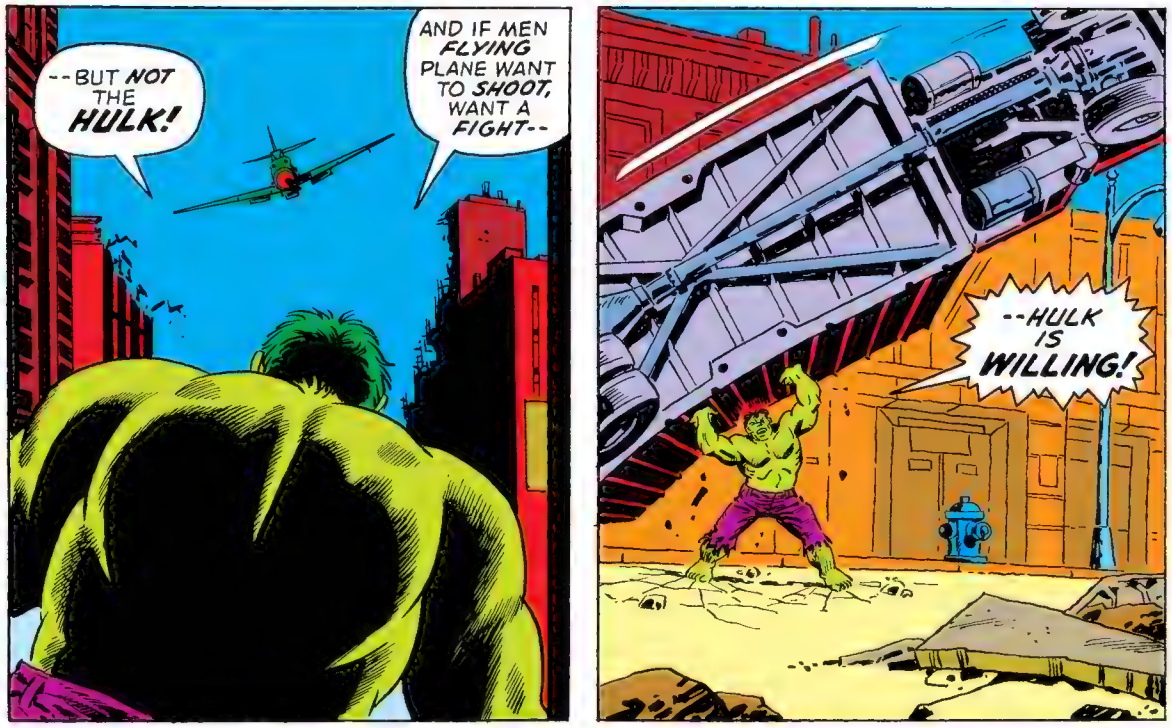


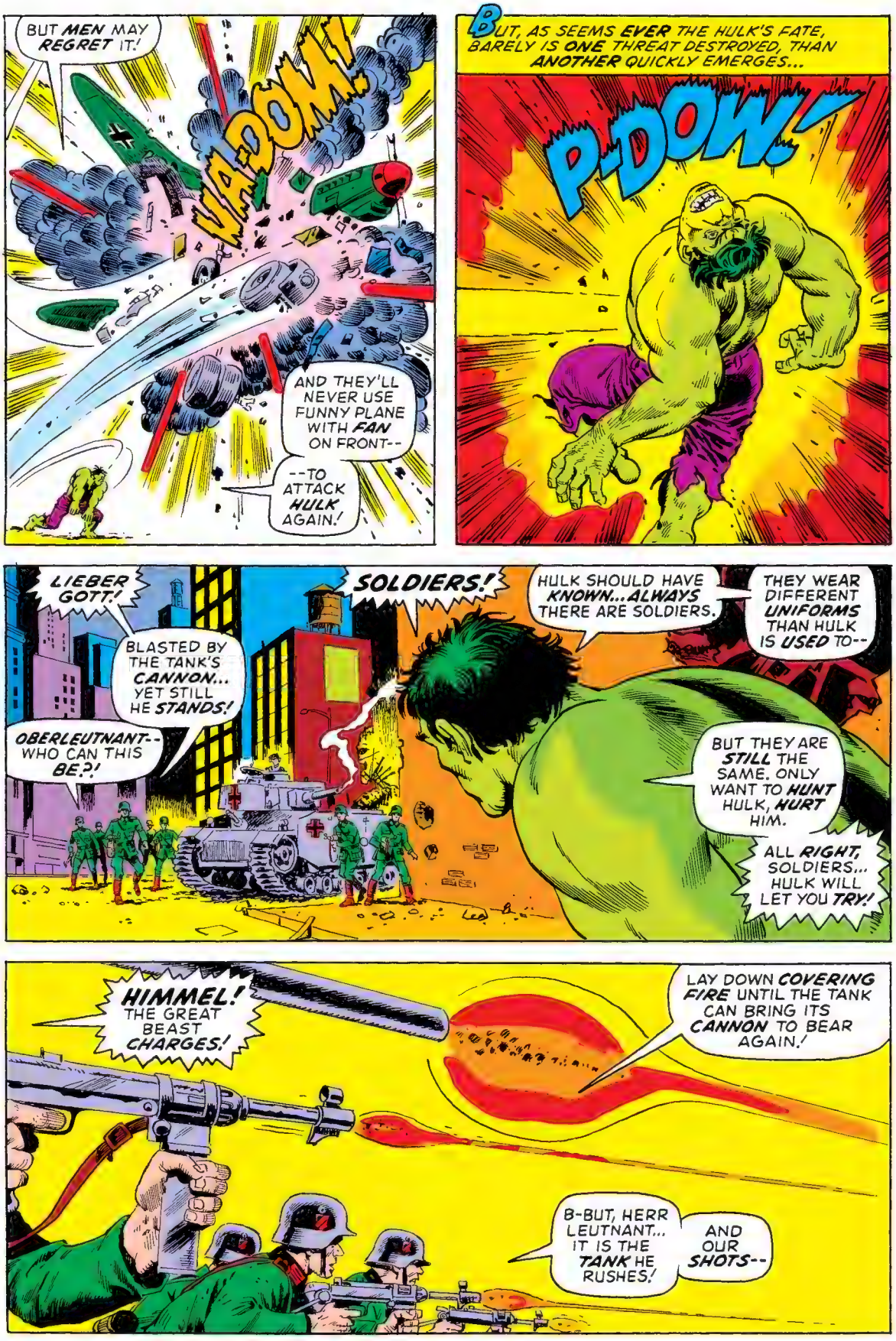
BUT THE WORD SHRIVELS ON BANNER'S TONGUE AS HIS EYES MOVE UPWARD--
--REVEALING THAT, THOUGH THE MOVEMENT THROUGH MICROVERSES HAS CEASED--
--THE MADNESS STILL REIGNS!
I-IT'S THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!
I'M IN... NEW YORK!
B-BUT...NOT THE CITY I KNOW. IT'S LIKE A PLACE UNDER SEIGE.
LIKE PICTURES OF LONDON DURING THE BLITZ--
--WAY BACK IN WORLD WAR--
AGAIN, A WORD IS LOST. LOST THIS TIME TO THE WHINE OF AN AIRPLANE ENGINE--
--AND THE DEADLY CLATTER OF .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS!
AND BRUCE BANNER DIVES... FOR COVER, FOR HIS LIFE!
THE INSIGNIA ON THAT PLANE--
A NAZI SWASTIKA--!
BWINNG BWIIING BEE-YEOW PIING
HOW CAN IT BE?!
WHAT HAS THAT SERUM OF HENRY PYM'S DONE TO ME?
WHAT KIND OF PLACE HAS IT TRAPPED ME IN?!

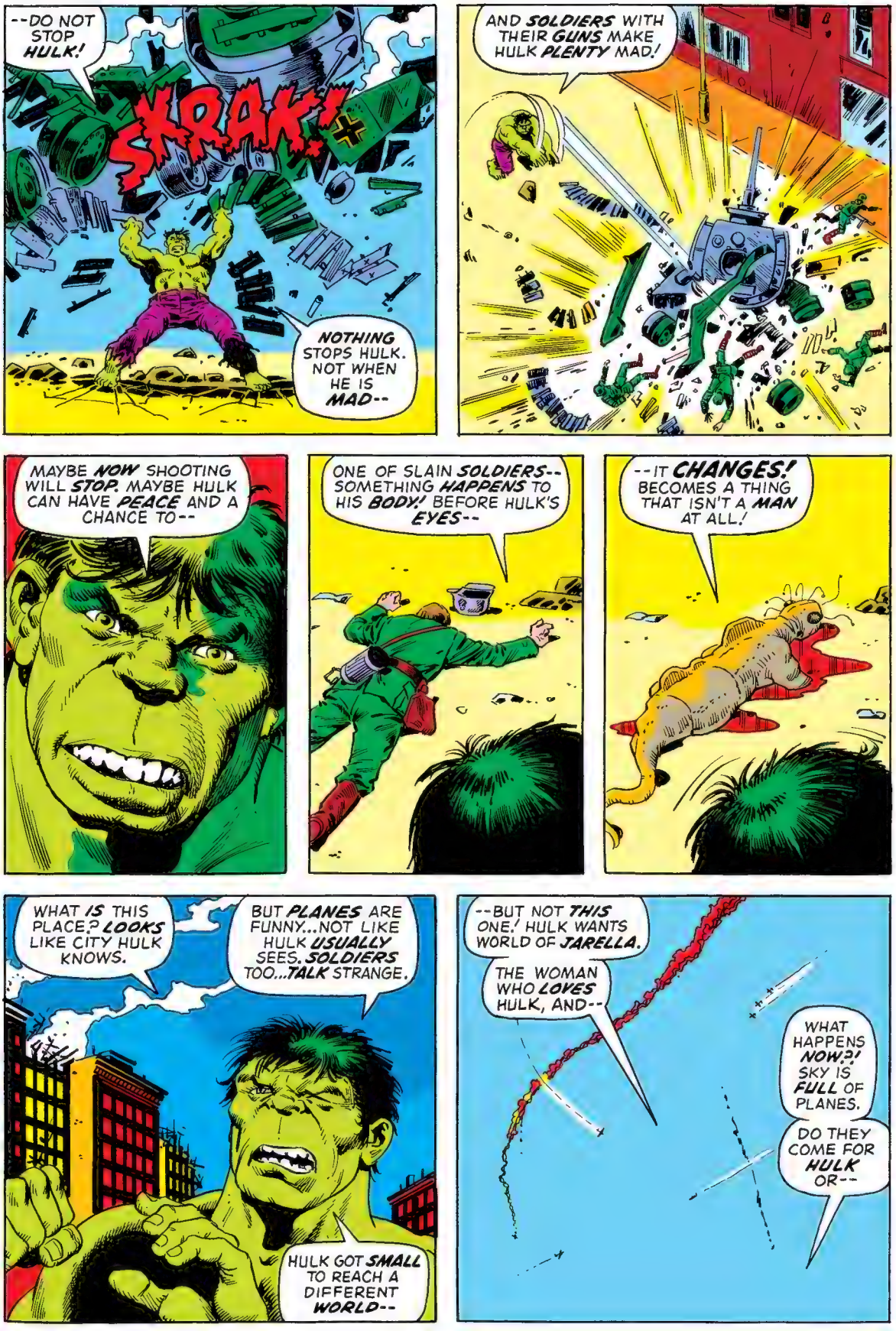
BUT THE ONLY ANSWER IS THE SOUND OF THE PLANE, CIRCLING, RETURNING...
CAN'T TELL IF I'M IN SOME CRAZY FUTURE... SOME IMPOSSIBLE PAST... OR WHAT?!
BUT IT'S REAL...! JUST LIKE THAT PLANE--
--AND THE BULLETS IT'S STRAFING WITH!
IF JUST ONE OF THEM HITS YOU, BANNER--
--YOU'RE DEAD!

THE THOUGHT BUBBLES IN BANNER'S MIND, IGNITING THE STRANGE CHEMISTRY OF HIS BODY...
A REACTION THAT PRODUCES FIRST PAIN--

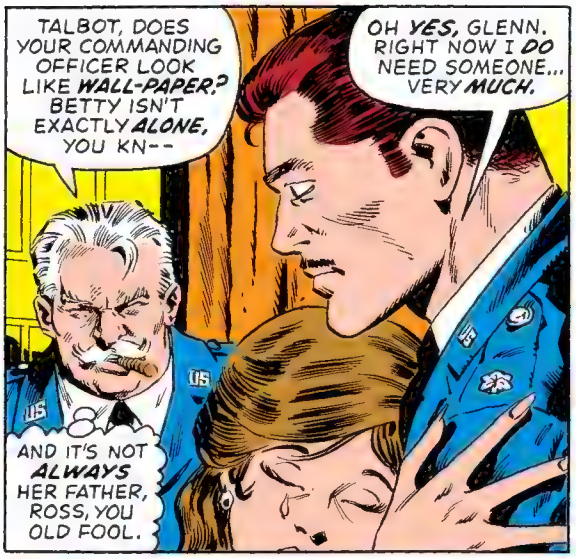

--THEN TRANSFORMATION. FROM A MAN, ONCE THE SCIENTIST, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST--INTO THE BRUTE-THING HE BOTH HATES, YET OFTEN NEEDS...
THE PLANE... COMING CLOSER!
BUT WHY DOES THAT MATTER?
IT CAN SCARE PUNY BANNER--


--BUT NOT THE HULK!
AND IF MEN FLYING PLANE WANT TO SHOOT, WANT A FIGHT--
--HULK IS WILLING!

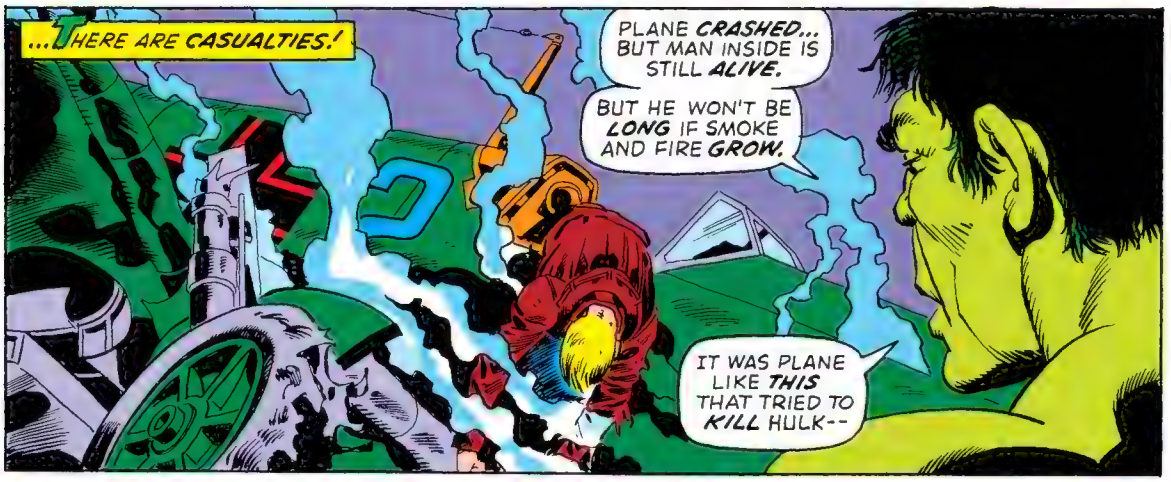

BUT MEN MAY REGRET IT!
KA-DOOM!!
AND THEY'LL NEVER USE FUNNY PLANE WITH FAN ON FRONT--
--TO ATTACK HULK AGAIN!
BUT, AS SEEMS EVER THE HULK'S FATE, BARELY IS ONE THREAT DESTROYED, THAN ANOTHER QUICKLY EMERGES...
P-DOW!
LIEBER GOTT!
BLASTED BY THE TANK'S CANNON... YET STILL HE STANDS!
OBERLEUTNANT-- WHO CAN THIS BE?!
SOLDIERS!
HULK SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...ALWAYS THERE ARE SOLDIERS.
THEY WEAR DIFFERENT UNIFORMS THAN HULK IS USED TO--
BUT THEY ARE STILL THE SAME. ONLY WANT TO HUNT HULK, HURT HIM.
ALL RIGHT, SOLDIERS... HULK WILL LET YOU TRY!
HIMMEL! THE GREAT BEAST CHARGES!
LAY DOWN COVERING FIRE UNTIL THE TANK CAN BRING ITS CANNON TO BEAR AGAIN!
B-BUT, HERR LEUTNANT... IT IS THE TANK HE RUSHES!
AND OUR SHOTS--


--DO NOT STOP HULK!
SKRAK!
NOTHING STOPS HULK. NOT WHEN HE IS MAD--
AND SOLDIERS WITH THEIR GUNS MAKE HULK PLENTY MAD!
MAYBE NOW SHOOTING WILL STOP. MAYBE HULK CAN HAVE PEACE AND A CHANCE TO--
ONE OF SLAIN SOLDIERS--SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HIS BODY! BEFORE HULK'S EYES--
--IT CHANGES! BECOMES A THING THAT ISN'T A MAN AT ALL!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? LOOKS LIKE CITY HULK KNOWS.
BUT PLANES ARE FUNNY...NOT LIKE HULK USUALLY SEES. SOLDIERS TOO...TALK STRANGE.
HULK GOT SMALL TO REACH A DIFFERENT WORLD--
--BUT NOT THIS ONE! HULK WANTS WORLD OF JARELLA.
THE WOMAN WHO LOVES HULK, AND--
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?! SKY IS FULL OF PLANES.
DO THEY COME FOR HULK OR--

NO! THEY FIGHT EACH OTHER.
SOME WITH STARS SHOOT AT ONES MARKED LIKE PLANE THAT CHASED HULK.
SEEMS STUPID! EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD SEEMS STUPID...AND STRANGE.
TOO STRANGE FOR HULK!
YET YOU ARE TRAPPED THERE, HULK. TRAPPED BY EVENTS STILL BEING DISCUSSED IN THAT DISTANT PLACE WHERE THEY BEGAN... A PLACE CALLED EARTH, A MILLION UNIVERSES AWAY..
--HYDRA AGENTS WERE DEFEATED, BUT THE HULK CHANGED BACK TO BRUCE BANNER.
AND BANNER--
--WAS EITHER CAUGHT BENEATH THE CHAMELEON'S HEEL--*
OR ELSE SENT PLUNGING INTO SOME INFINITE MICROCOSM BY MY SERUM.
IN ALL EVENTS... A FINE MAN WAS LOST!
*LAST ISH--S.
THAT OF COURSE WAS HENRY PYM--ANT-MAN-- SEEN IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST EARLIER TODAY WHEN--
BETTY, IT'S NO GOOD WATCHING THIS STUFF OVER AND OVER--
IT CAN'T UNDO WHAT HAPPENED TO BRUCE...AND TORTURES YOU FOR SOMETHING OVER WHICH YOU HAD NO CONTROL.
DAD, I KNOW. BUT... BUT...
I KEEP THINKING HOW HASTY I WAS--
IN DECIDING HE CARED ONLY FOR THAT JARELLA RATHER THAN ME; IN RUNNING AWAY TO FIND MYSELF WHEN I MIGHT HAVE STOOD BY HIM, AND--
HONEY, YOU'RE DOING JUST WHAT I SAID NOT TO. NOW--
BZZZT
WHO'S AT THE BLASTED DOOR AT THIS HOUR?
GLENN--!
BETTY, I HEARD THIS AFTERNOON YOU'D RETURNED TO THE BASE.
DIDN'T INTEND TO BARGE IN, BUT DRIVING BY I SAW THE LIGHTS, SO--
WELL...AT TIMES LIKE THESE, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK WITH, OR--


TALBOT, DOES YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER LOOK LIKE WALL-PAPER? BETTY ISN'T EXACTLY ALONE, YOU KN--
OH YES, GLENN. RIGHT NOW I DO NEED SOMEONE... VERY MUCH.
AND IT'S NOT ALWAYS HER FATHER, ROSS, YOU OLD FOOL.

SO GO EVENTS IN ONE WORLD, IN ANOTHER...
WAR RAGES OVER A PLACE DESIGNATED MANHATTAN...
AND AS IN ANY WAR...


...THERE ARE CASUALTIES!
PLANE CRASHED... BUT MAN INSIDE IS STILL ALIVE.
BUT HE WON'T BE LONG IF SMOKE AND FIRE GROW.
IT WAS PLANE LIKE THIS THAT TRIED TO KILL HULK--

BUT HULK HAS TO TALK TO SOMEONE! HAS TO FIND WHERE HE IS, HOW TO GET TO JARELLA'S WORLD!
MUST MOVE FAST BEFORE--

KOOM

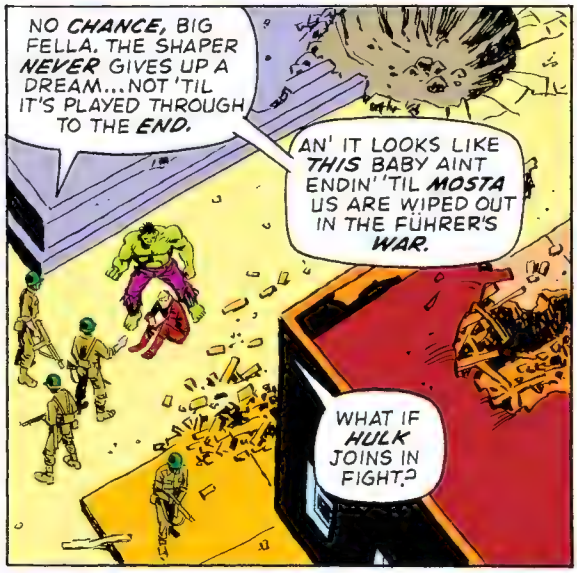
PILOT IS VERY STILL... BUT HASN'T TURNED INTO WORMY THING LIKE OTHER HULK SAW.
HE MUST BE ALIVE.
HAVE TO FIND QUIET SPOT.
MAKE PILOT BETTER SO HE CAN TALK.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BIG BOY.
MORE SOLDIERS...MORE GUNS! HULK IS SICK OF IT.
OUT OF HIS WAY, SOLDIERS--
HULK CAN SMASH YOUR PUNY GUNS INTO DUST...AND YOU WITH THEM!

EASY, HIGHPOCKETS. WE DON'T WANT TROUBLE.
YEAH! AN' WE HEARD WHAT YA SAID WHILE SAVIN' THE KRAUT PILOT.
JUST A CHANCE TO TALK. OUR PATROL SAW WHAT YA DID TO THE NAZIS.
DARK AVE.
34 STREET
YOU'RE AN OFF-WORLDER ...LIKE THE FÜHRER!
FÜHRER? OFF-WORLDER? HULK DOESN'T UNDER-STAND...!

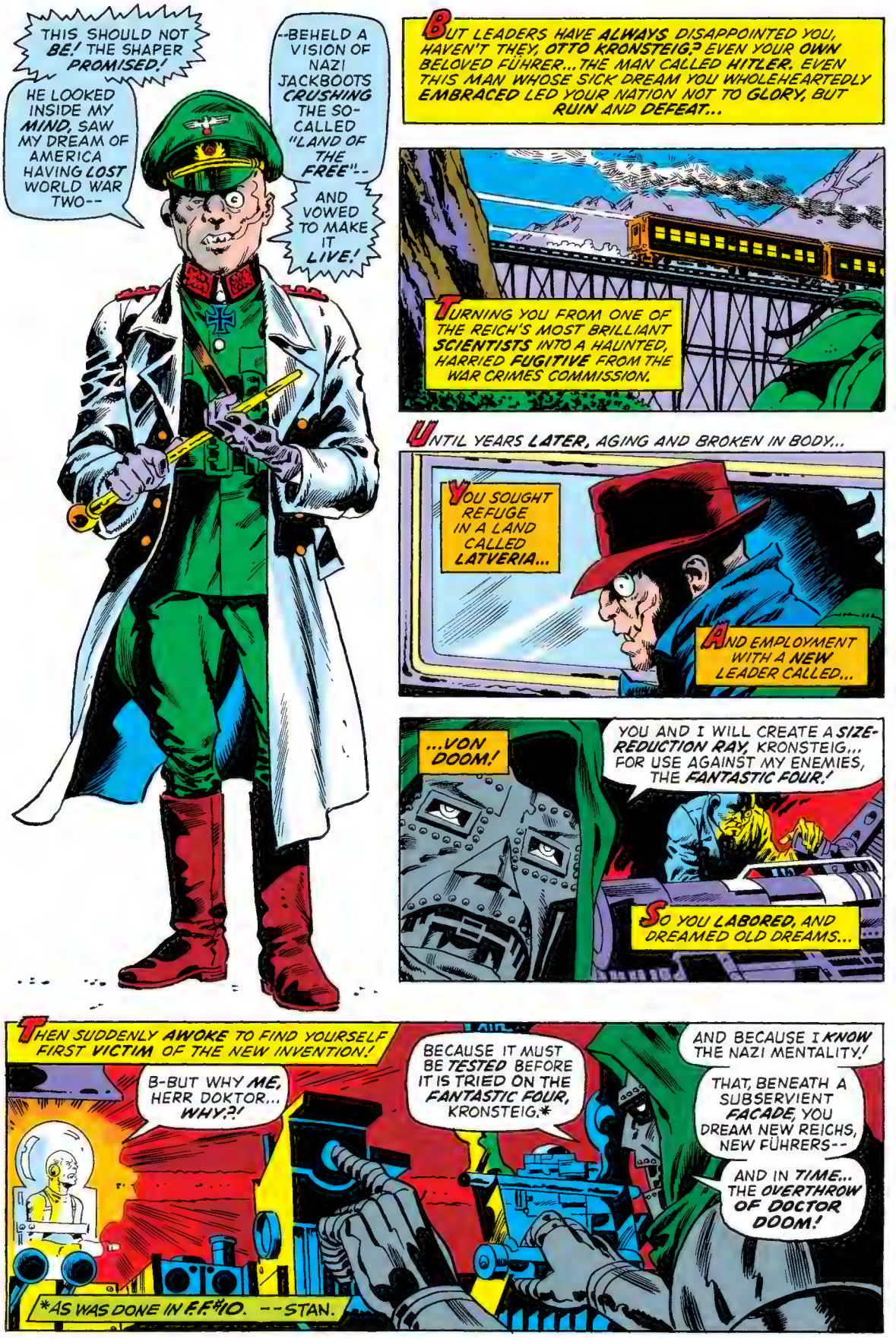
THIS IS THE WORLD OF THE SHAPER, GREENSKIN... HE SORTA RULES US... TAKES OUR DREAMS AN' SHAPES 'EM...GIVES 'EM LIFE.
AN' WHEN THE OTHER OUTWORLDER APPEARED, THE SHAPER LATCHED ON TO HIS.
ONLY HE GOT TIRED OF OUR DREAMS--
THAT'S WHAT THIS WAR... THIS WHOLE THING'S ALL ABOUT.

THEN HULK DOESN'T NEED PILOT...YOU HAVE EXPLAINED THINGS.
THIS SHAPER... IF HE HAS POWER TO MAKE DREAMS REAL...
HE COULD HELP HULK. COULD FIND JARELLA'S WORLD, MAYBE SEND HULK THERE!


NO CHANCE, BIG FELLA. THE SHAPER NEVER GIVES UP A DREAM...NOT 'TIL IT'S PLAYED THROUGH TO THE END.
AN' IT LOOKS LIKE THIS BABY AINT ENDIN' 'TIL MOSTA US ARE WIPED OUT IN THE FÜHRER'S WAR.
WHAT IF HULK JOINS IN FIGHT?

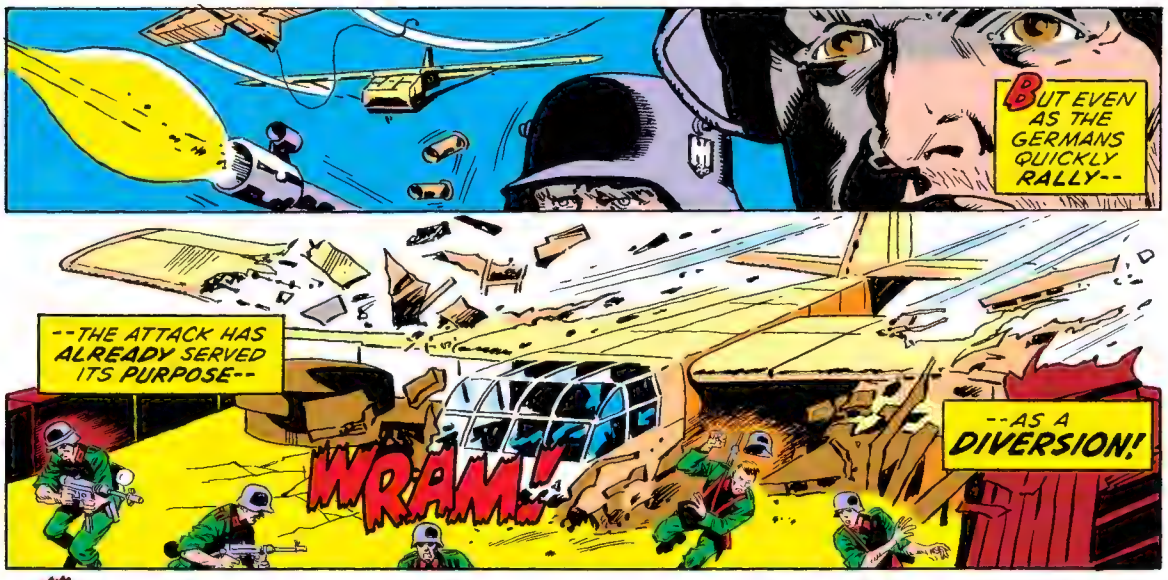
AS OUR ALLY? FUNNY THING...WE WERE GONNA SUGGEST THAT. NOBODY'S BUCKED THE SHAPER AN' WON...BUT IT'D SURE IMPROVE CHANCES A LOT MORE WOULD SURVIVE THE DREAM!
HULK WILL DO BETTER THAN THAT. HULK WILL MAKE WAR END QUICK--
AND MAKE SHAPER HELP HIM!

AND THOUGH THE HULK SPEAKS FEW WORDS--
BRA-KOW!
BA-DUM!
EACH AND EVERY ONE IS BACKED BY ACTION--
--AS ALL COMBATANTS SOON LEARN IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW!
UNTIL, AT GERMAN HIGH COMMAND HEADQUARTERS IN THE AREA CALLED WALL STREET...
HEIL, KRONSTEIG!
YOU HAVE THE LATEST DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT?
JA, MEIN FÜHRER! BUT I MUST WARN YOU--
JUST DELIVER THEM, COURIER--
YOUR FÜHRER WILL INTERPRET THEIR MEANING FOR HIMSEL--
DONNER-WETTER!
MORE LOSSES... MORE! OUR INVASION FORCE IS BEING ROLLED BACK!
AND IT IS THE WORK OF THAT GREEN GOLEM-- DER HULK!


THIS SHOULD NOT BE! THE SHAPER PROMISED!
HE LOOKED INSIDE MY MIND, SAW MY DREAM OF AMERICA HAVING LOST WORLD WAR TWO--
--BEHELD A VISION OF NAZI JACKBOOTS CRUSHING THE SO-CALLED "LAND OF THE FREE"--
AND VOWED TO MAKE IT LIVE!
BUT LEADERS HAVE ALWAYS DISAPPOINTED YOU, HAVEN'T THEY, OTTO KRONSTEIG? EVEN YOUR OWN BELOVED FÜHRER... THE MAN CALLED HITLER. EVEN THIS MAN WHOSE SICK DREAM YOU WHOLEHEARTEDLY EMBRACED LED YOUR NATION NOT TO GLORY, BUT RUIN AND DEFEAT...
TURNING YOU FROM ONE OF THE REICH'S MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS INTO A HAUNTED, HARRIED FUGITIVE FROM THE WAR CRIMES COMMISSION.
UNTIL YEARS LATER, AGING AND BROKEN IN BODY...
YOU SOUGHT REFUGE IN A LAND CALLED LATVERIA...
AND EMPLOYMENT WITH A NEW LEADER CALLED...
...VON DOOM!
YOU AND I WILL CREATE A SIZE-REDUCTION RAY, KRONSTEIG... FOR USE AGAINST MY ENEMIES, THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
SO YOU LABORED, AND DREAMED OLD DREAMS...
THEN SUDDENLY AWOKE TO FIND YOURSELF FIRST VICTIM OF THE NEW INVENTION!
B-BUT WHY ME, HERR DOKTOR... WHY?!
BECAUSE IT MUST BE TESTED BEFORE IT IS TRIED ON THE FANTASTIC FOUR, KRONSTEIG.*
AND BECAUSE I KNOW THE NAZI MENTALITY!
THAT, BENEATH A SUBSERVIENT FACADE, YOU DREAM NEW REICHS, NEW FÜHRERS--
AND IN TIME... THE OVERTHROW OF DOCTOR DOOM!
*AS WAS DONE IN F.F. #10. --STAN.

AND THE RAY WORKED SUPREMELY WELL, OTTO KRONSTEIG.
YOU SHRUNK THROUGH UNIVERSES HIDDEN WITHIN MOLECULES, WITHIN ATOMS--
--TO THIS WORLD, AND A BEING WHO THUNDERED:
I AM THE SHAPER, HE WHO MAKES DREAMS LIVE!
AND IN YOUR SMALL MIND, I READ VISIONS AMUSING AND CHALLENGING!
BUT WITH THE HULK'S APPEARANCE, THAT CHALLENGE SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME TOO GREAT!
MORE LOSSES AND MY INVASION WILL FAIL--
MEIN FÜHRER! THAT BEAM OF LIGHT!
LOOK OU--
THE CRY IS TOO LATE--NOR COULD THE FORCE SEIZING OTTO KRONSTEIG HAVE BEEN RESISTED HAD HE HEARD.
--THE DOMAIN OF THE SHAPER!
CAUGHT IN A FUNNEL OF POWER, HE IS THRUST UPWARD--
--TO WHERE A METALLIC MOON HANGS IN THE SKY--
HOW DARE YOU DOUBT, OTTO KRONSTEIG... HOW DARE YOU!
THAT WHICH IS GIVEN REALITY BY THE SHAPER CANNOT FALTER, CANNOT FAIL--
--UNTIL I ALONE CRY: ENOUGH!
B-BUT, MASTER... THIS HULK....! HE IS A MONSTER! NO WEAPON STOPS HIM, NO FORCE SUBDUES HIM....!
THERE WILL BE SOMETHING. THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING.
AND IT WILL BE TORN FROM YOUR OWN DOUBTING MIND!

FOR MY CURSE IS TO HAVE POWER UNPARALLELLED, TO SHAPE, TO BUILD--
YET BE DENIED THE GIFT OF IMAGINATION, THE SPARK OF CREATIVITY!
HAVING NO DREAMS OF MY OWN, ANY I SHAPE ARE PRECIOUS TO ME, KRONSTEIG--
NOT TO BE TORN ASUNDER BY SOME OFF-WORLD MONSTER.
THIS HULK SHALL BE STOPPED!
WITHIN YOUR MIND, I PERCEIVE A VISION YET UNTAPPED, AN EXPERIMENT CUT SHORT BY YOUR WAR'S END--
--TO PRODUCE, THROUGH GENETIC-SURGERY, A NAZI SUPER-BEING TO EQUAL THE HEROES OF THE ALLIES!
A BEING WE SHALL PRODUCE... NOW!
THERE IT IS... NAZI HQ!
WE'VE NEVER PENETRATED THIS FAR INTO OCCUPIED TERRITORY BEFORE.
MAYBE THE SHAPER PLANS A DIFFERENT END TO KRONSTEIG'S DREAM THAN WE THOUGHT!
MAYBE--
WE'LL KNOW IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES.
MOVE OUT, DOGFACES... AN' GIVE 'EM HELL!
BRAAAAT!
BUDDA BUDDA
BRA-KOW!
ACHTUNG!
AMERICAN COMMANDOS! ALERT THE GARRISON... SCHNELL! SCHNELL!



AND FROM THE RUIN OF A CRASHED GLIDER, AN INCREDIBLE FIGURE CHARGES ONTO THE ROOFTOP...

A FLESH-AND-BLOOD WEAPON THAT STRIKES LIKE A JUGGERNAUT!
SHAPER! THE HULK HAS COME!
WHOEVER YOU ARE, WHATEVER YOU ARE--
HULK IS HERE TO END YOUR STUPID DREAM, STOP YOUR STUPID WAR.
ALL YOUR SOLDIERS, ALL YOUR GUNS--
--WON'T MAKE HIM QUIT!
NOTHING CAN!

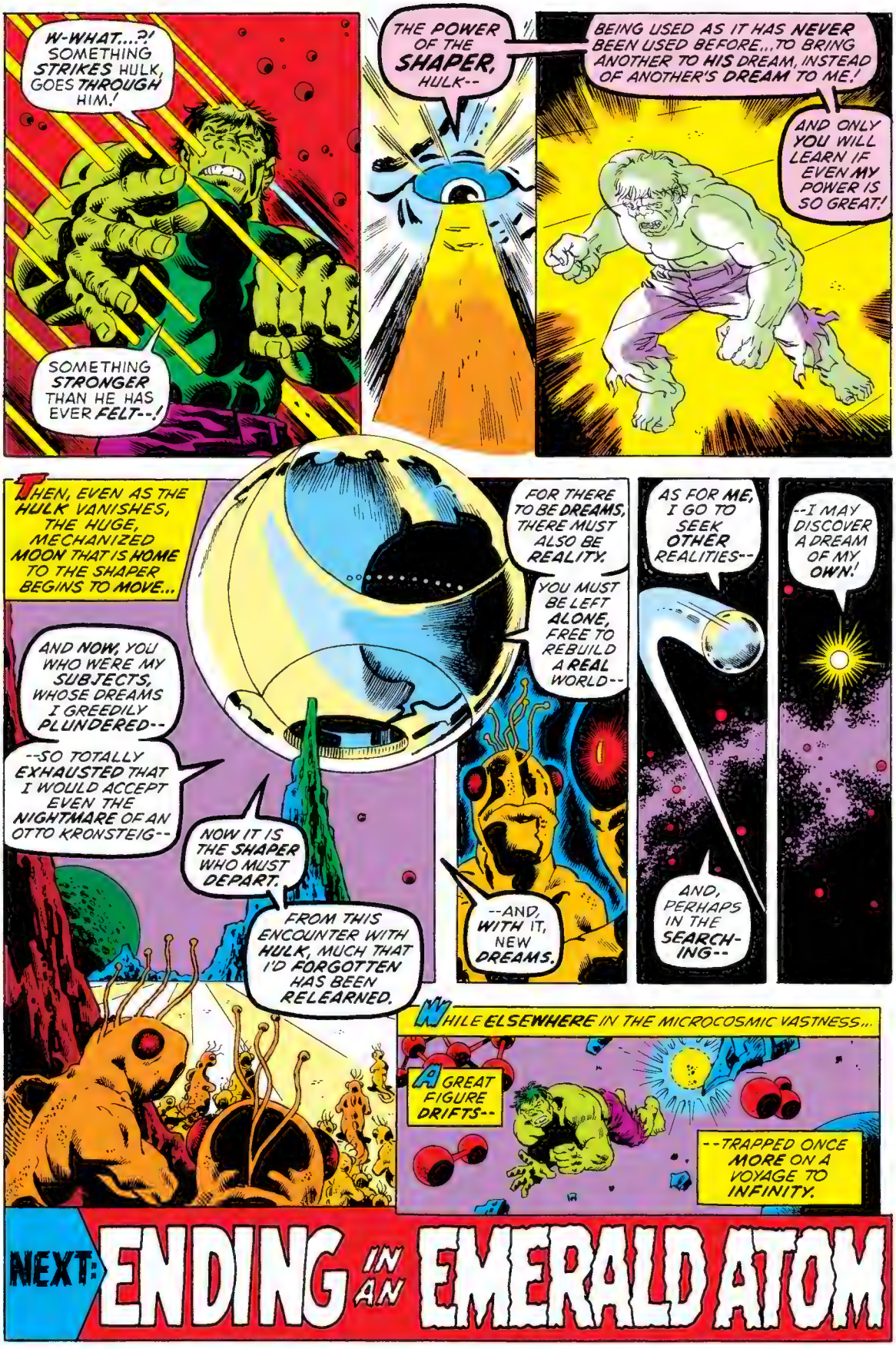
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM KRONSTEIG! I AM FÜHRER OF THE NEW REICH. AND NOW--THANKS TO THE SHAPER--
I AM CAPTAIN AXIS!
I AM MORE! THE NAZI DREAM OF THE OBERMENSCH --THE SUPER-BEING--
THE ANSWER TO THE CAPTAIN AMERICAS, THE SUB-MARINERS, WHO DARED TO FIGHT AGAINST US--
AND I CAN CRUSH THE HULK!
WOM!
POW!
WELL, BRUTE...? YOU BEGIN TO PERCEIVE I SPOKE TRUTH?
"PERCEIVE"? DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
BUT LONG AFTER MAN IN RED UNDERWEAR RUNS OUT OF FANCY WORDS--
HULK WILL STILL BE SMASHING HIM!

THERE WILL BE NO SMASHING, MONSTER. NOT BY YOU, NOT BY THAT GREAT GREEN PAW--
--WHICH MY OWN FIST SHALL NOW REDUCE TO PULP!
YOU...ARE... STRONG....!
BUT...
...NOT THAT STRONG!
DUMMKOPF! YOUR STUPID STRUGGLING--
--MAKES US BOTH TOPPLE!
DOES FALLING SCARE YOU, FANCY WORDS--?
WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN WE LAND?!
-UNGHHH!-
THUM!
HULK WILL NOT GROAN OR CRY.
ALL PAIN, ALL HURT ONLY MAKES HULK MADDER--
--SO HE GROWS STRONGER, HITS HARDER!
MORE AND MORE--
OVER AND OVER!
BOM!

HULK NEVER GIVES UP. THAT'S WHY--SOONER, LATER--HULK ALWAYS WINS!
ACH! THIS CANNOT BE HAPPENING.
THE POWERS I ENVISIONED GENETIC-SURGERY PROVIDING--
--MUST BE ENOUGH TO DEFEAT SUCH A BRUTE!
IT MUST BE!
-UNFFFF!-
HULK WON'T QUIT... NO POWER CAN MAKE HIM QUIT!
GOTT! JUST KICKING HIM AWAY TOOK SUCH EFFORT! NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAM DID I IMAGINE CAPTAIN AXIS COULD BE PUT TO SUCH A CHALLENGE.
NOT IN MY WILDEST DREA--
MY HANDS! W-WHAT--?!
SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENS TO FOE--
HE IS... CHANGING!
HIMMEL! I GROW SMALLER... REVERT TO N-NORMAL!
BUT WHY? HOW--NO! NO! MY OWN WORDS: "NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAM--"
YES, OTTO KRONSTEIG, AND WHAT HASN'T BEEN DREAMED, THE SHAPER CANNOT MAKE TRUE...
CAPTAIN AXIS CANNOT POSSIBLY BEAT THE HULK!
HULK COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT.
BUT WHAT IS THIS? YOU BECOME NOTHING BUT A SHRIVELED OLD MAN--
AND HULK DOES NOT NEED TO BATTLE PUNY OLD ONES. NOT EVEN TO--
HUH? NOW WHAT HAPPENS--?
STREETS, BUILDINGS SEEM TO DISAPPEAR--!
MY DREAM....! IF I AM FINISHED, THE DREAM IS RUINED....!

AND, AS WITH ANY DREAM'S END, NOTHING REMAINS BUT REALITY. THE REALITY OF A WORLD BARREN AND NEGLECTED. THE REALITY OF THE BEING WHO RULES IT, SHRIEKING FROM HIS SATELLITE STRONGHOLD...
MONSTER, HOW DARE YOU?!
FOR YOUR OWN INSIGNIFICANT ENDS, YOU HAVE MEDDLED IN THE SHAPER'S WORK--
--ROBBED ME OF THE PLEASURE IN FULFILLING KRONSTEIG'S DREAM!
AND YOU SHALL PAY!
YOU WHO HAVE COST ME ONE DREAM--
--SHALL PROVIDE ANOTHER!
EVEN YOUR MUDDLED, BRUTE'S BRAIN HAS MEMORIES, ELEMENTS BUT WAITING TO BE MOLDED--
--ELEMENTS SUCH AS THESE!
ROSS--! AND OTHER ONES--FROM THE WORLD OUTSIDE!
NO!
IT IS NOT THEM...HULK WON'T BELIEVE IT'S THEM.
HULK DOESN'T WANT TO BE PART OF A DREAM!
HULK WANTS SOMETHING REAL--

--WANTS TO REALLY GO TO JARELLA'S WORLD!
USE YOUR POWER FOR THAT, SHAPER!
FOR, HULK WILL KEEP SMASHING THIS DREAM--
--JUST LIKE ONE OF THE MAN CALLED KRONSTEIG!
EVEN IF IT LOOKS LIKE HE IS HURTING FRIENDS--LIKE THE BOY, JIM, THE GIRL, BETTY, OR--
HUH...?!
STAY YOUR HAND, MY FIERCE WARRIOR-PRINCE. WOULD YOU STRIKE ME?
YOUR OWN BETROTHED... JARELLA?
LOOKS--SOUNDS--SO REAL.' HULK CAN'T--
HULK MUST!!
WON'T GIVE IN...NOT EVEN FOR DREAM-JARELLA!
'CAUSE SOMEDAY DREAM WOULD END--
--AND HULK WOULD HAVE NOTHING!
HULK WANTS REAL JARELLA... LOVE HE CAN NEVER LOSE.
THE CREATURE WILL NOT RESPOND! IN ENDLESS ETERNITIES OF SHAPING--
--NEVER HAVE I BEHELD SUCH BRUTE STUBBORN-NESS.
CAN THE REAL WORLD, THE ACTUAL GIRL HE SEEKS, BE SO MUCH BETTER THAN WHAT I SHAPE?
COULD HE FIGHT ON SO UNSWERVINGLY IF THEY WERE NOT?
ENOUGH, GIANT. IT IS THE SHAPER WHO SURRENDERS.


W-WHAT...?! SOMETHING STRIKES HULK, GOES THROUGH HIM.!
SOMETHING STRONGER THAN HE HAS EVER FELT--!
THE POWER OF THE SHAPER, HULK--
BEING USED AS IT HAS NEVER BEEN USED BEFORE...TO BRING ANOTHER TO HIS DREAM, INSTEAD OF ANOTHER'S DREAM TO ME!
AND ONLY YOU WILL LEARN IF EVEN MY POWER IS SO GREAT!
THEN, EVEN AS THE HULK VANISHES, THE HUGE, MECHANIZED MOON THAT IS HOME TO THE SHAPER BEGINS TO MOVE...
FOR THERE TO BE DREAMS, THERE MUST ALSO BE REALITY.
YOU MUST BE LEFT ALONE, FREE TO REBUILD A REAL WORLD--
AS FOR ME, I GO TO SEEK OTHER REALITIES--
--I MAY DISCOVER A DREAM OF MY OWN!
AND NOW, YOU WHO WERE MY SUBJECTS, WHOSE DREAMS I GREEDILY PLUNDERED--
--SO TOTALLY EXHAUSTED THAT I WOULD ACCEPT EVEN THE NIGHTMARE OF AN OTTO KRONSTEIG--
NOW IT IS THE SHAPER WHO MUST DEPART.
FROM THIS ENCOUNTER WITH HULK, MUCH THAT I'D FORGOTTEN HAS BEEN RELEARNED.
--AND, WITH IT, NEW DREAMS.
AND, PERHAPS IN THE SEARCHING--
WHILE ELSEWHERE IN THE MICROCOSMIC VASTNESS...
A GREAT FIGURE DRIFTS--
--TRAPPED ONCE MORE ON A VOYAGE TO INFINITY.
NEXT: ENDING IN AN EMERALD ATOM

INCREDIBLE HULK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
YOU!! YOU LOOK LIKE HULK-- BUT I AM HULK! I AM!
NO!! WE'RE BOTH THE HULK--BUT AT LAST, I'VE GOT BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN!
AND IF ONE OF US HAS TO DIE.. IT WON'T BE ME!
IT'S HULK VS. HULK.. AT THE HEART OF THE ATOM!

HOLOCAUST AT THE HEART OF THE ATOM!

THERE ARE WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS. HIDDEN IN THE VERY ATOMS OF OUR OWN ARE UNIVERSES. AND THROUGH THESE ENDLESS MICROCOSMS--

--THE HULK HAS DRIFTED, UNTIL PERHAPS A MOMENT AGO, PERHAPS AN ETERNITY, WHEN--

--THE DRIFTING ENDED! NOW SUDDENLY HE STANDS ALONE UPON ONE SUB-ATOMIC SPHERE, ALONE AND... CHANGED.

M-MY THOUGHTS, MY SPEECH...! I STILL HAVE THE HULK'S BODY, BUT--

--WITH BRUCE BANNER'S MIND! HOW CAN IT BE? UNLESS--

THIS WORLD IS JARELLA'S WORLD!

AND THE SPELL CAST TO MAKE ME UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE, TO FUNCTION THIS WAY--*

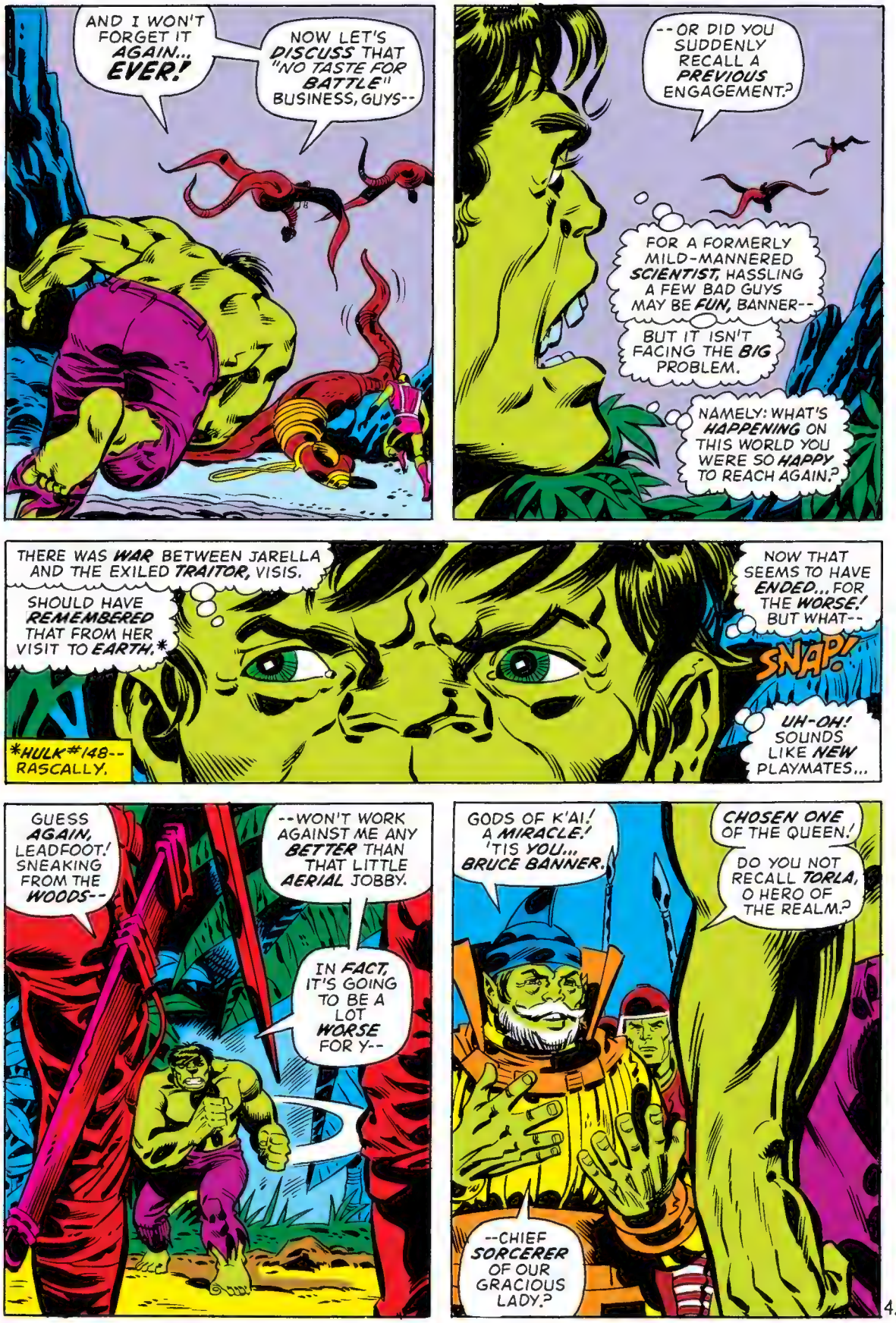
--IS STILL IN EFFECT!

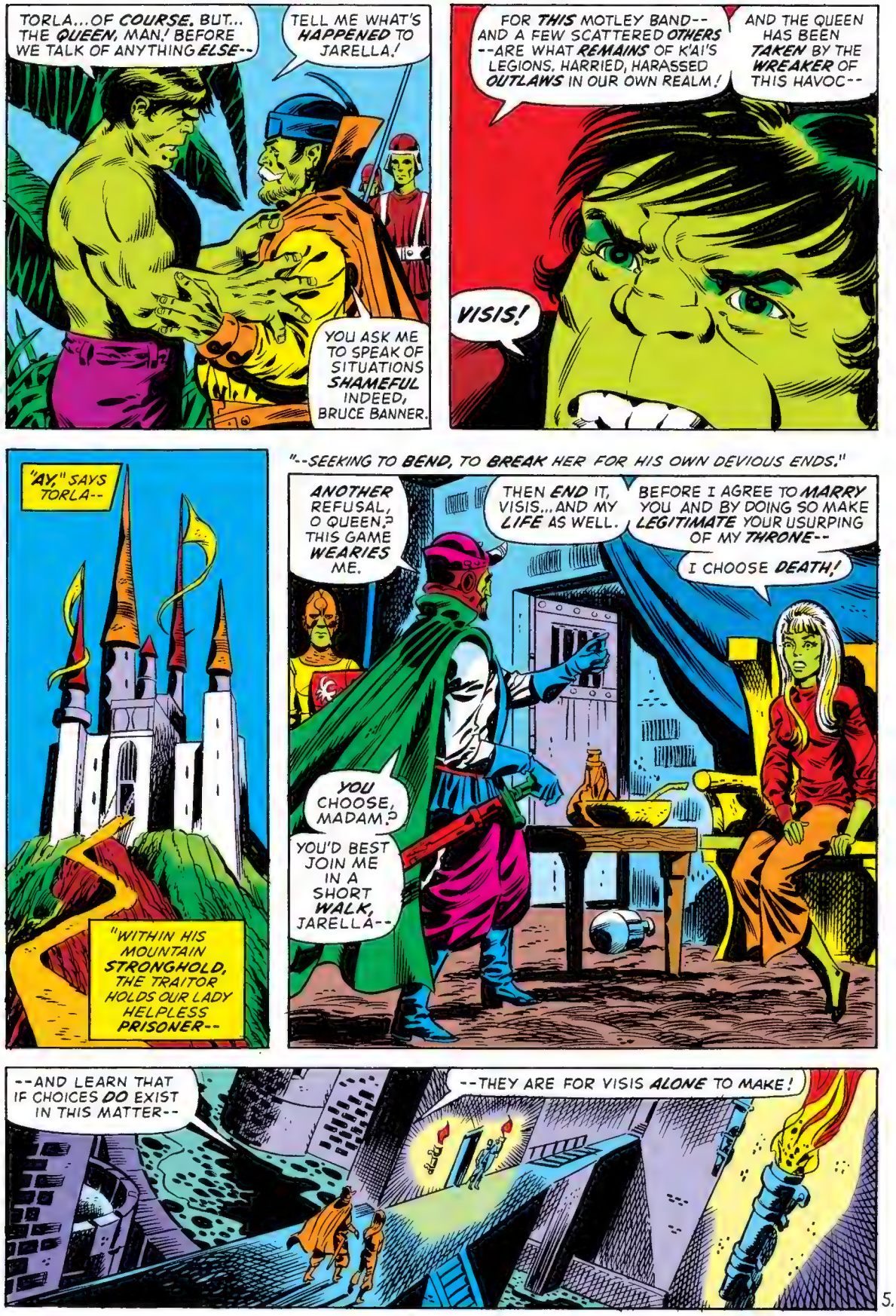
*SEEN IN HULK #140--R.

STAN LEE PRESENTS
ARCHIE GOODWIN WRITER
HERB TRIMPE & SAL TRAPANI ARTISTS
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER
ROY THOMAS EDITOR

HENRY PYM'S SIZE-REDUCTION SERUM...THE AWESOME POWER OF THE SHAPER.* IT TOOK BOTH--
--PLUS A LOT OF STRIFE TO GET FROM THAT BIG, BLACK BEYOND TO HERE.
*STRANGE BEING OF YET ANOTHER MICRO-WORLD INTRODUCED LAST ISH--ROY.
BUT TO RETURN TO THE ONE PLACE WHERE PHYSICIST BRUCE BANNER AND HIS GREEN, GAMMA-RAY SPAWNED ALTER-EGO CAN PEACEFULLY CO-EXIST--
--IT WAS WORTH IT!
AND THIS TRIP... I'M HERE TO STAY.
BETTY ROSS, JIM WILSON, ALL THE OTHERS OF EARTH WHO CARED, WHO TRIED TO HELP--YOU'LL BE REMEMBERED... AND MISSED.
BUT FREE FROM THE SHADOW OF THE HULK, YOU'LL BE SAFER...HAPPIER.
AND IF THIS FAMILIAR LOOKING TRAIL LEADS WHERE I THINK--TO A CITY CALLED K'AI, A LOVELY LADY NAMED JARELLA--
A CUT OF THAT HAPPINESS MAY JUST BE MINE!
YES! HERE'S WHERE THE HULK BATTLED THOSE GREAT BEASTS--WHAT WERE THEY CALLED--?
--WARTHOS. AND FROM THIS POINT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE--
THE CITY!
OH, LORD....!
JARELLA'S HOME!
THE GREAT JADE CITY WHERE SHE RULED AS QUEEN--
NOTHING BUT RUIN... RUIN AND UTTER DESOLATION!

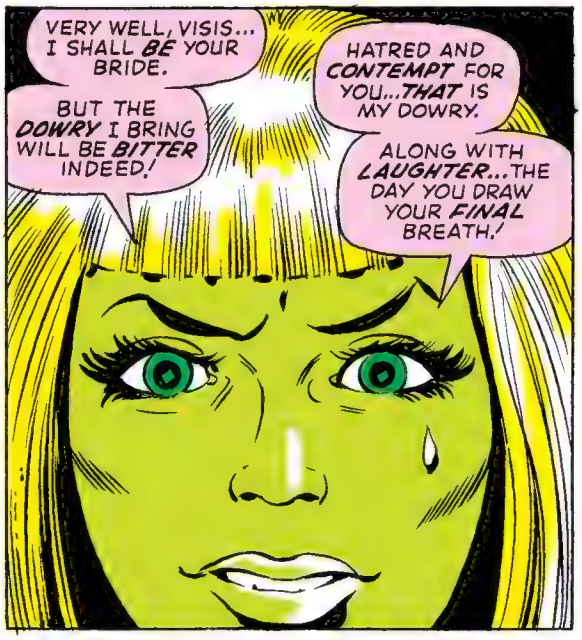
PERHAPS IF YOU WERE THE OLD--THE TRUE-- HULK, THIS GRIM SCENE MIGHT NOT HOLD YOU SO, YOU MIGHT BE LOOKING WARILY, IMPATIENTLY ABOUT--
--AND SEE THE SILENT RIDERS CROSSING THE MOON'S BRIGHT FACE--
--AS YOU HAVE BEEN SEEN, AND SINGLED FOR ATTACK!
TO ME, NIGHT PATROL--!
WRAK!
:UNGHHH!:
K'AI'S RUINS YIELD ANOTHER TRAITOR TO LORD VISIS!
HA! SEE HOW THE FOOL IS SHOCKED... HURT!
YOU MILK-BLOODED FOLLOWERS OF JARELLA ARE ALL THE SAME.
EVEN A GREAT-BODIED LUMP SUCH AS YOU HAS NO TASTE FOR BATTLE!
BOK!
ONLY FOR COMING TO THIS PLACE BY NIGHT TO MOURN HER DEFEAT!
YEAH, BALDY... YOU CAUGHT ME SHORT.
THOM!
FORGOT FOR A MOMENT WHO I WAS, WHAT I'D BECOME.
BUT A FEW WHACKS ON THE HEAD TEND TO REMIND YOU!
BRUCE BANNER'S GENTLE, CIVILIZED MIND NOT WITHSTANDING--
--I'M STILL VERY MUCH THE HULK!

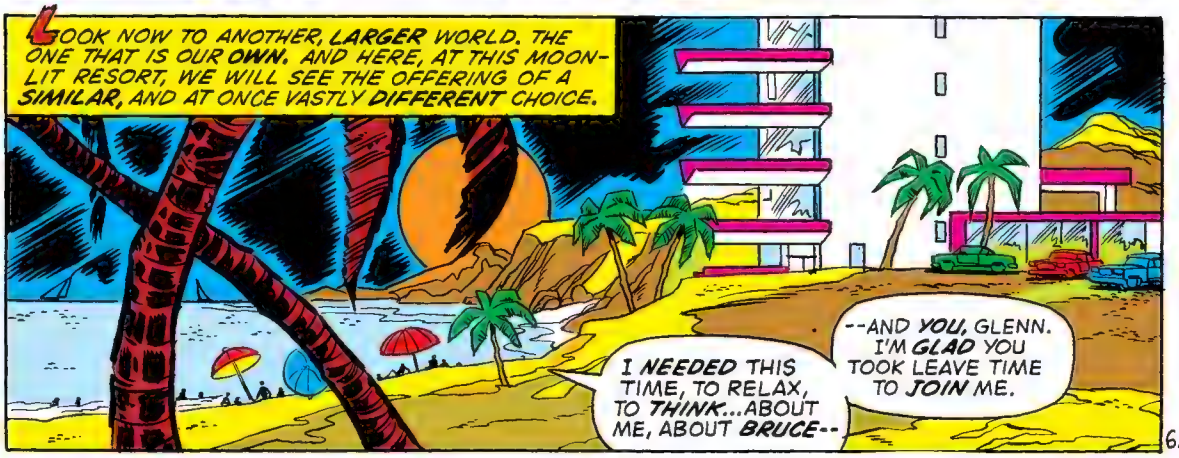

AND I WON'T FORGET IT AGAIN... EVER!
NOW LET'S DISCUSS THAT "NO TASTE FOR BATTLE" BUSINESS, GUYS--
--OR DID YOU SUDDENLY RECALL A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT?
FOR A FORMERLY MILD-MANNERED SCIENTIST, HASSLING A FEW BAD GUYS MAY BE FUN, BANNER--
BUT IT ISN'T FACING THE BIG PROBLEM.
NAMELY: WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THIS WORLD YOU WERE SO HAPPY TO REACH AGAIN?
THERE WAS WAR BETWEEN JARELLA AND THE EXILED TRAITOR, VISIS.
SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THAT FROM HER VISIT TO EARTH.*
*HULK #148-- RASCALLY.
NOW THAT SEEMS TO HAVE ENDED... FOR THE WORSE! BUT WHAT--
SNAP!
UH-OH! SOUNDS LIKE NEW PLAYMATES...
GUESS AGAIN, LEADFOOT! SNEAKING FROM THE WOODS--
--WON'T WORK AGAINST ME ANY BETTER THAN THAT LITTLE AERIAL JOBBY.
IN FACT, IT'S GOING TO BE A LOT WORSE FOR Y--
GODS OF K'AI! A MIRACLE! 'TIS YOU... BRUCE BANNER.
CHOSEN ONE OF THE QUEEN!
DO YOU NOT RECALL TORLA, O HERO OF THE REALM?
--CHIEF SORCERER OF OUR GRACIOUS LADY?


TORLA...OF COURSE, BUT... THE QUEEN, MAN! BEFORE WE TALK OF ANYTHING ELSE--
TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENED TO JARELLA!
YOU ASK ME TO SPEAK OF SITUATIONS SHAMEFUL INDEED, BRUCE BANNER.
FOR THIS MOTLEY BAND-- AND A FEW SCATTERED OTHERS --ARE WHAT REMAINS OF K'AI'S LEGIONS, HARRIED, HARASSED OUTLAWS IN OUR OWN REALM!
AND THE QUEEN HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE WREAKER OF THIS HAVOC--
VISIS!
"AY," SAYS TORLA--
"WITHIN HIS MOUNTAIN STRONGHOLD, THE TRAITOR HOLDS OUR LADY HELPLESS PRISONER--
"--SEEKING TO BEND, TO BREAK HER FOR HIS OWN DEVIOUS ENDS."
ANOTHER REFUSAL, O QUEEN? THIS GAME WEARIES ME.
THEN END IT, VISIS... AND MY LIFE AS WELL.
BEFORE I AGREE TO MARRY YOU AND BY DOING SO MAKE LEGITIMATE YOUR USURPING OF MY THRONE--
I CHOOSE DEATH!
YOU CHOOSE, MADAM?
YOU'D BEST JOIN ME IN A SHORT WALK, JARELLA--
--AND LEARN THAT IF CHOICES DO EXIST IN THIS MATTER--
--THEY ARE FOR VISIS ALONE TO MAKE!

NOW, JARELLA... OBSERVE.
THE DUNGEONS OF MY KEEP ARE VAST...NOT ALL ARE SO PLEASANT AS YOURS, EH?
THOSE MEN... I RECOGNIZE SOME OF THEM.
OF COURSE. ALL WERE ONCE SUBJECTS OF YOURS--
AND ALL WILL BE SLAIN WITH YOUR NEXT REFUSAL!

AND THIS IS NOT THE ONLY SUCH PIT. THERE ARE OTHERS. SOME WITH WOMEN, CHILDREN...
FOR EVERY NO YOU GIVE ME, ONE WILL BE EMPTIED, PROUD EMPRESS.
BUT A YES WILL SAVE THEM, FREE THEM...THAT IS THE CHOICE I OFFER, JARELLA!


VERY WELL, VISIS... I SHALL BE YOUR BRIDE.
BUT THE DOWRY I BRING WILL BE BITTER INDEED!
HATRED AND CONTEMPT FOR YOU...THAT IS MY DOWRY.
ALONG WITH LAUGHTER...THE DAY YOU DRAW YOUR FINAL BREATH!

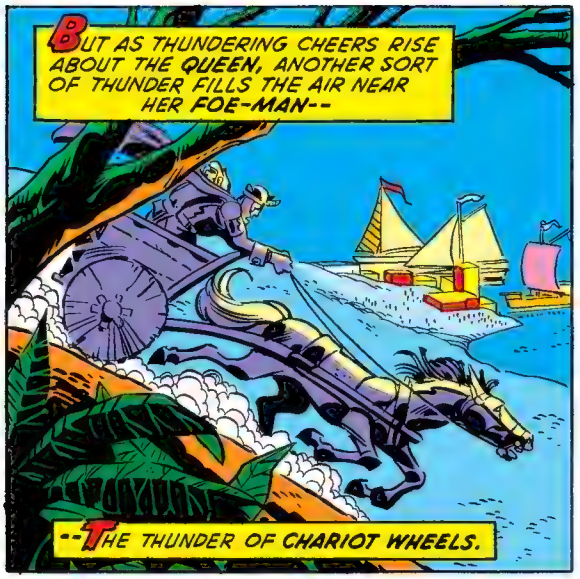

LOOK NOW TO ANOTHER, LARGER WORLD. THE ONE THAT IS OUR OWN. AND HERE, AT THIS MOON-LIT RESORT, WE WILL SEE THE OFFERING OF A SIMILAR, AND AT ONCE VASTLY DIFFERENT CHOICE.
I NEEDED THIS TIME, TO RELAX, TO THINK...ABOUT ME, ABOUT BRUCE--
--AND YOU, GLENN. I'M GLAD YOU TOOK LEAVE TIME TO JOIN ME.

I'M SORRY IT COULDN'T BE LONGER, BETTY. BUT BEFORE I RETURN TO THE BASE--
THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST ASK. MAYBE IT'S TOO SOON AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO BANNER, BUT--
GLENN, EVEN BEFORE EVERYONE GAVE BRUCE UP AS LOST--
EVERYTHING SEEMED TO HAVE CHANGED BETWEEN US... PERHAPS PERMANENTLY.
BETTY, DOES THAT MEAN--?
GLENN, IT MEANS WHAT'S PAST IS PAST. I DON'T REGRET WHAT I ALMOST HAD WITH BRUCE--
BUT IT'S TIME NOW TO THINK OF THE FUTURE, AND IF THAT FUTURE MEANS MARRIAGE FOR YOU AND ME--
IT DOES, BETTY. BELIEVE ME, DARLING--
IT DOES!
ON EARTH THEN, THE BEGINNING OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP; WHILE IN JARELLA'S SUB-ATOMIC WORLD--
--A PLAN OF ACTION IS ABOUT TO BE LAUNCHED!
JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
AND WITH ONE MIGHTY THOOM A TINY TITAN CRASHES AMIDST A GATHERING OF GIANTS...
WARTHOS!
PART PIG, PART CANINE-- ALL TROUBLE!

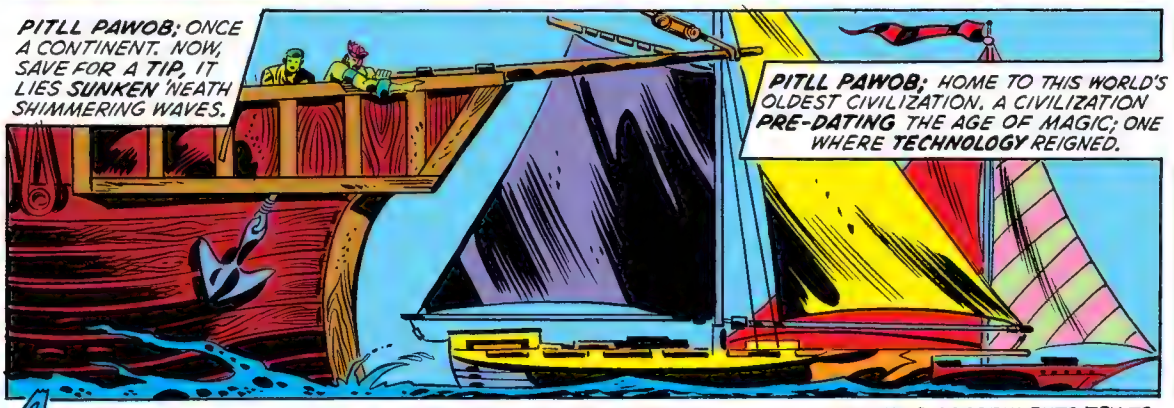
AND JUST ABOUT IDEAL FOR WHAT I'VE GOT IN MIND--
WOM!
--ONCE I GET THROUGH REASONING WITH THEM!
DON'T CROWD-- EVERYONE GETS A TURN!
BA-DOM!
BUT WHAT I'M REALLY AFTER--
--IS YOU!
THE LEADER OF THE PACK!
KA-THUD!
LET HOURS PASS, SHIFT IN PLACE TO A CASTLE. GAZE INTO ITS GREAT HALL, WHERE...
THE BRIDE ARRIVES! STAND READY, PRIEST.
BUT BEFORE SHE IS WITHIN HEARING--
--CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, DISPATCH PATROLS TO RECAPTURE OR SLAY ALL PRISONERS FREED THIS MORNING!
AH, JARELLA! YOU DO MERE WEDDING GARMENTS GREAT JUSTICE!
IN THE DUNGEONS, I MAY HAVE DWELLED OVERMUCH ON MATTERS POLITIC--
BUT FOR ALL MY ROUGH AND READY WAYS, I AM NOT BLIND TO BEAUTY.
YOU'LL COME TO LOVE ME, MADAM.

YOU KEPT YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN IN RELEASING THE PRISONERS.
NOW I KEEP MINE, VISIS. EXPECT NOTHING ELSE, FOR--
THAT NOISE--!
GUARDS! WHAT IS IT?
THE ENTIRE HALL TREMBLES AS THOUGH A WORLDQUAKE STRIKES US!
BA-KOOM!
NO--! AND IT'S NOT A BIRD, OR A PLANE--
--OR THE FINALE OF AN OLD MGM TARZAN FLICK.
JUST THE HULK--AND HIS TROOP OF TRAINED WARTHOS!
DOING A VARIATION ON LOCHINVAR--
--OR MAYBE, THE GRADUATE!
NOT THAT MY CUTSEY REFERENCES HAVE MUCH MEANING HERE--
BUT AS LONG AS I GET JARELLA--
--I DON'T CARE!
BRUCE BANNER-- MY CHAMPION, MY LOVE! H-HOW--
--I GOT HERE IS A LONG STORY, JARELLA, AND WE MAY BE TOO BUSY FOR THE TELLING.
'CAUSE NOW THAT WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN--
--WE'VE GOT A WORLD TO WIN BACK!

IN DAYS THAT FOLLOW, MINSTRELS COMPOSE SONGS OF THE RAID, OF JARELLA'S RESCUE BY HER OTHER-WORLDLY HERO...
SONGS SUNG THROUGHOUT THE LAND...
SONGS TO WARM THE HEARTS, REKINDLE THE NERVE OF A COWED POPULACE. AND WHEN, IN THE WAKE OF THE SONGS, THE QUEEN AND HER CHAMPION COME RIDING--
--INSPIRED LEGIONS FALL IN BEHIND THEM. LEGIONS AGAIN READY TO TAKE UP SWORD AND LANCE AGAINST A TYRANT'S FORCES.
--SO THAT ONCE MORE THE COUNTRY RINGS WITH SOUNDS OF COMBAT!
AND SINCE THIS WORLD IS NOT EARTH, NOR GOVERNED BY EARTH'S NATURAL LAWS, NOT ALL THOSE COMBATS ARE FOUGHT WITH ARMS...
MASTER TORLA--GOOD NEWS! THE SPELLS OF YOUR ADEPTS HAVE BROKEN THE DEFENSIVE ENCHANTMENT PLACED BY LORD VISIS ON THE RIVER ELB!
THEN BRUCE BANNER'S ATTACK FORCE MAY STRIKE THE TRAITOR'S FLANK BY SHIP--!
YET AGAIN, VISIS WILL HAVE NO OPTION BUT THAT OF RETREAT.
SOON...
YOU HAVE FOUGHT WELL, MEN OF K'AI... AND TO FINE PURPOSE!
BY THE FIRST MOON'S RISING, WE SHALL CAMP ON THE PLAINS BEFORE CASTLE VISIS--
--AND THERE WAGE OUR FINAL BATTLE!
HAIL JARELLA! HAIL HULK!


BUT AS THUNDERING CHEERS RISE ABOUT THE QUEEN, ANOTHER SORT OF THUNDER FILLS THE AIR NEAR HER FOE-MAN--
--THE THUNDER OF CHARIOT WHEELS.

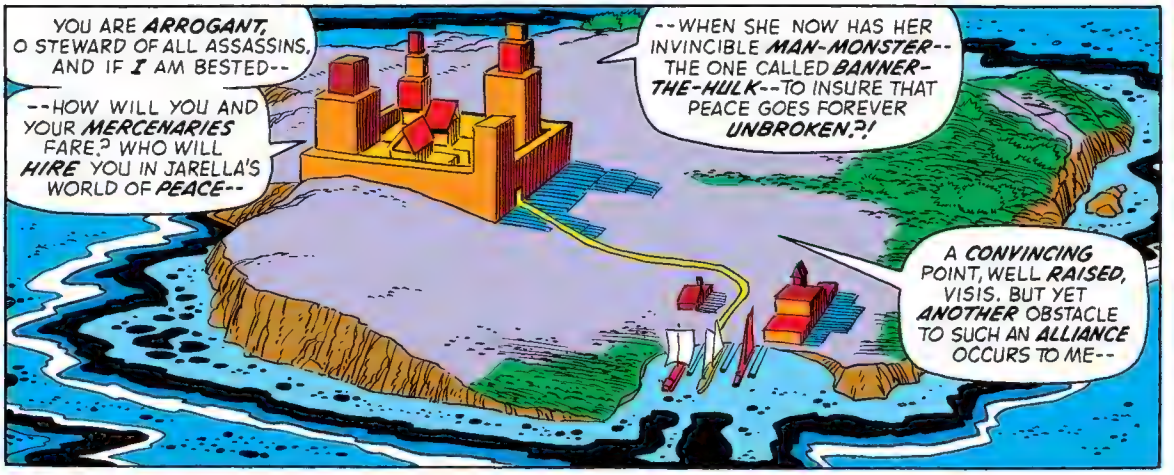
HO, CORSAIRS! BE READY TO SAIL--AND WITH SPEED--THE INSTANT I STAND ON DECK!
THE WAR--AND YOUR HEADS--HANG IN BALANCE!
YOUR COURSE WILL BE EAST! TO PITLL PAWOB--
--TO THE ISLE OF ASSASSINS!


PITLL PAWOB: ONCE A CONTINENT. NOW, SAVE FOR A TIP, IT LIES SUNKEN 'NEATH SHIMMERING WAVES.
PITLL PAWOB; HOME TO THIS WORLD'S OLDEST CIVILIZATION. A CIVILIZATION PRE-DATING THE AGE OF MAGIC; ONE WHERE TECHNOLOGY REIGNED.

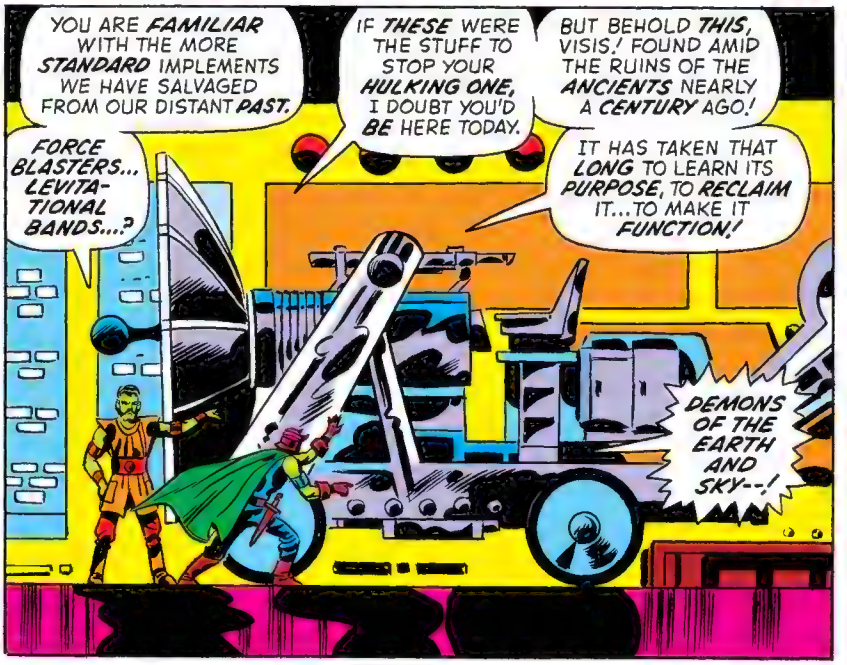
A CIVILIZATION THAT CRUMBLED INTO THE SEA, WITH BUT FEW SURVIVING. NOW THEIR DESCENDENTS TRY TO MAINTAIN WHAT REMAINS OF THAT LOST TECHNOLOGY, HIRING OUT WEAPONS AND THEMSELVES--

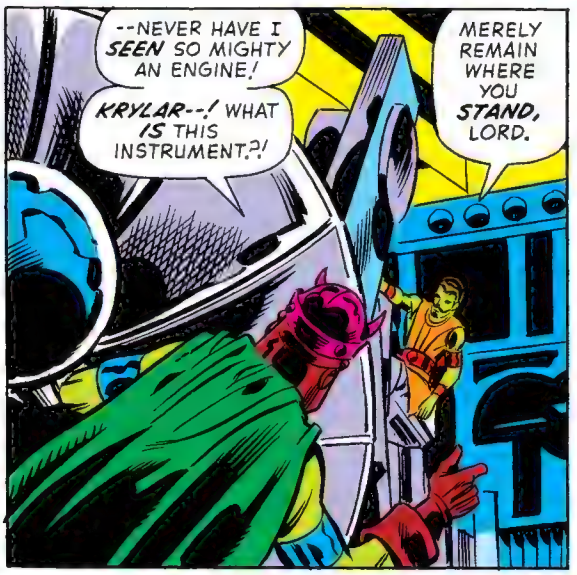
--TO ANY AND ALL, KRYLAR. WHY DO YOU NOW HESITATE AT WHAT I SUGGEST?
PERHAPS, LORD VISIS, I THINK OF THE PITLL PAWOB DIVISION YOU ONCE HAD--
--AND MANAGED TO LOSE! SKILLED ASSASSINS, IRREPLACEABLE WEAPONS--ALL DESTROYED!

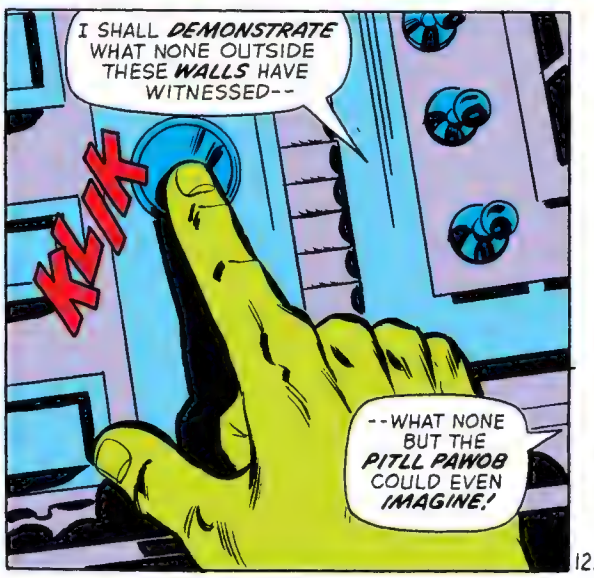
BUT CHIEFLY, YOUR OFFER ITSELF DOES DISTURB ME. PITLL PAWOB TO BECOME YOUR FULL ALLY...WITH FULL SHARES IN ALL SPOILS?
INTRIGUING...SAVE THAT IT SMACKS OF A DEFEATED MAN'S LAST GRASPING AT THE STRAW OF HOPE!

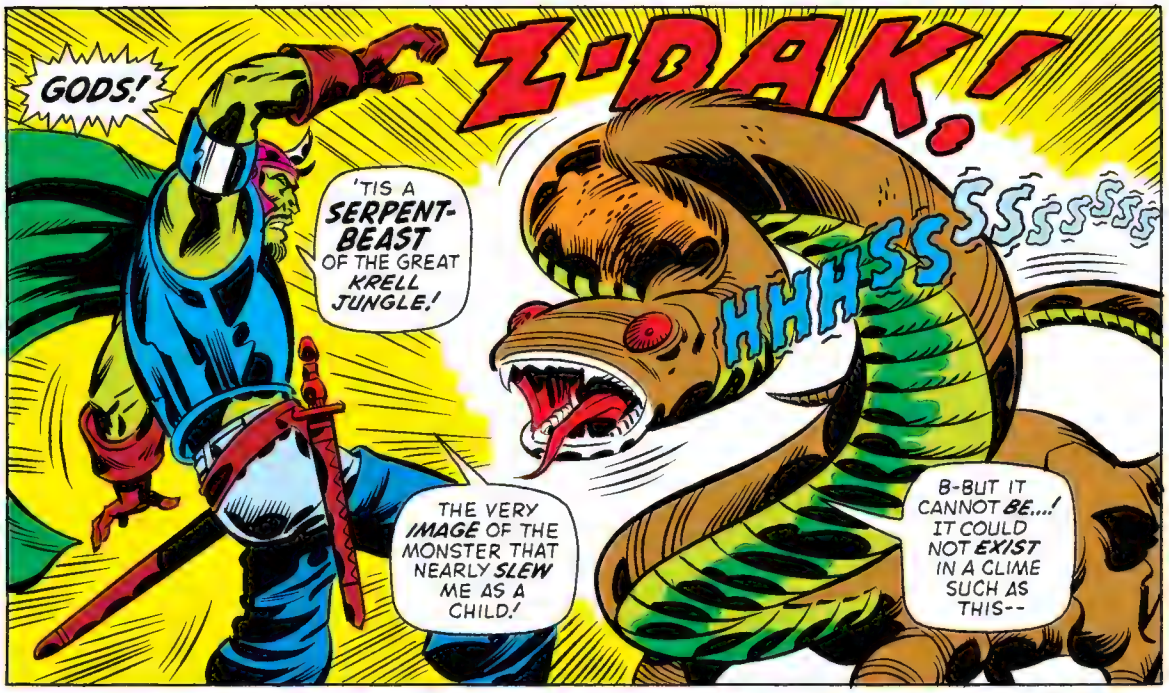

YOU ARE ARROGANT, O STEWARD OF ALL ASSASSINS, AND IF I AM BESTED--
--HOW WILL YOU AND YOUR MERCENARIES FARE? WHO WILL HIRE YOU IN JARELLA'S WORLD OF PEACE--
--WHEN SHE NOW HAS HER INVINCIBLE MAN-MONSTER--THE ONE CALLED BANNER-THE-HULK--TO INSURE THAT PEACE GOES FOREVER UNBROKEN?!
A CONVINCING POINT, WELL RAISED, VISIS. BUT YET ANOTHER OBSTACLE TO SUCH AN ALLIANCE OCCURS TO ME--

--IT TURNS ON THIS "HULK," AND THE TRUTH IN YOUR ACCOLADE OF--
--INVINCIBLE.
COME TO OUR RECONSTRUCTION SHOPS, LORD--
--I WOULD HAVE AN OPINION FROM YOU.

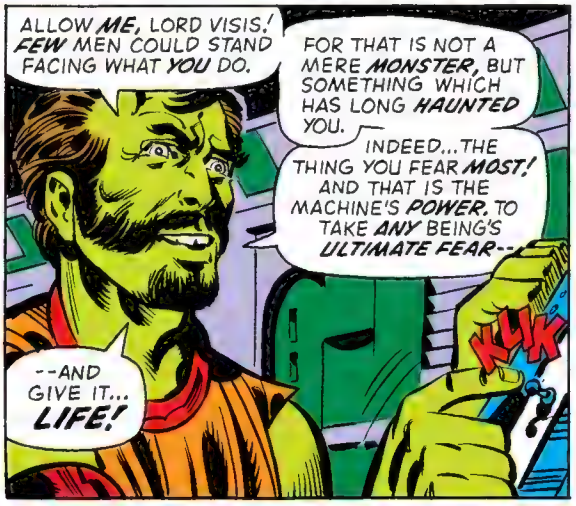

YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE MORE STANDARD IMPLEMENTS WE HAVE SALVAGED FROM OUR DISTANT PAST.
IF THESE WERE THE STUFF TO STOP YOUR HULKING ONE, I DOUBT YOU'D BE HERE TODAY.
BUT BEHOLD THIS, VISIS! FOUND AMID THE RUINS OF THE ANCIENTS NEARLY A CENTURY AGO!
FORCE BLASTERS... LEVITATIONAL BANDS...?
IT HAS TAKEN THAT LONG TO LEARN ITS PURPOSE, TO RECLAIM IT...TO MAKE IT FUNCTION!
DEMONS OF THE EARTH AND SKY--!

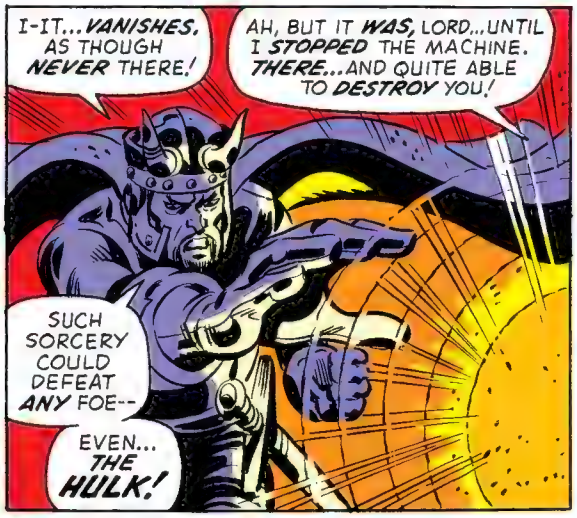

--NEVER HAVE I SEEN SO MIGHTY AN ENGINE!
KRYLAR--! WHAT IS THIS INSTRUMENT?!
MERELY REMAIN WHERE YOU STAND, LORD.


I SHALL DEMONSTRATE WHAT NONE OUTSIDE THESE WALLS HAVE WITNESSED--
KLIK
--WHAT NONE BUT THE PITLL PAWOB COULD EVEN IMAGINE!

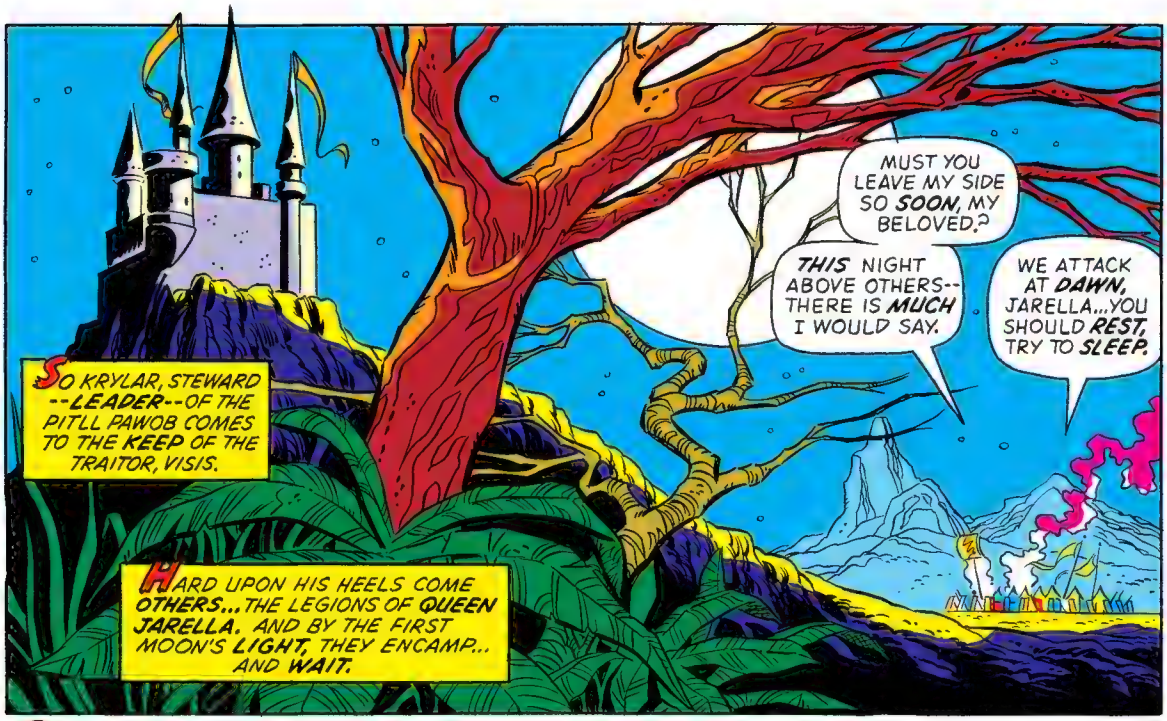

GODS!
Z-DAK!
'TIS A SERPENT-BEAST OF THE GREAT KRELL JUNGLE!
HHHSS
SSSSSSS
THE VERY IMAGE OF THE MONSTER THAT NEARLY SLEW ME AS A CHILD!
B-BUT IT CANNOT BE...! IT COULD NOT EXIST IN A CLIME SUCH AS THIS--

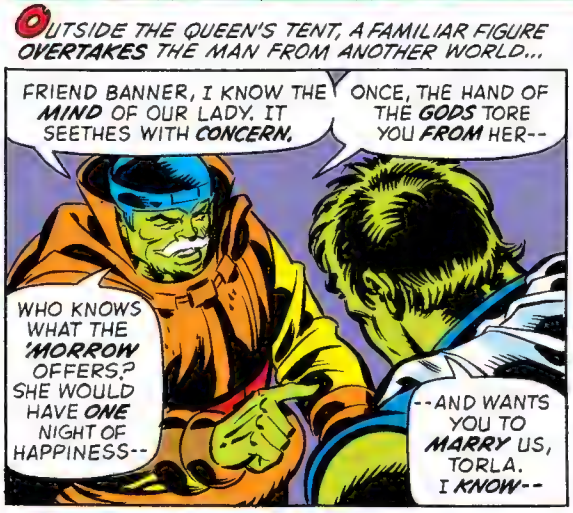
--YET I FEEL ITS REPTILIAN BREATH, AM FIXED BY ITS BURNING GAZE AS IT THRUSTS FOR THE KILL!
IN THE NAME OF ALL DEMONS! SOMEONE-- ANYONE-- SAVE ME!


ALLOW ME, LORD VISIS! FEW MEN COULD STAND FACING WHAT YOU DO.
FOR THAT IS NOT A MERE MONSTER, BUT SOMETHING WHICH HAS LONG HAUNTED YOU.
INDEED...THE THING YOU FEAR MOST! AND THAT IS THE MACHINE'S POWER, TO TAKE ANY BEING'S ULTIMATE FEAR--
KLK
--AND GIVE IT... LIFE!

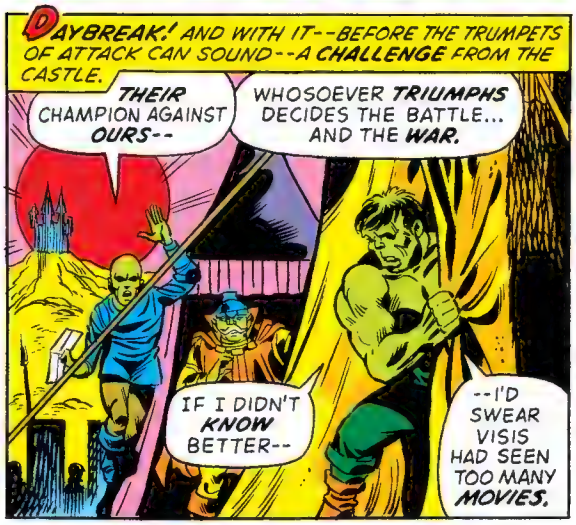

I-IT...VANISHES, AS THOUGH NEVER THERE!
AH, BUT IT WAS, LORD...UNTIL I STOPPED THE MACHINE. THERE...AND QUITE ABLE TO DESTROY YOU!
SUCH SORCERY COULD DEFEAT ANY FOE--
EVEN... THE HULK!

NOT SORCERY, VISIS... TECHNOLOGY. BUT THAT WAS THE OPINION I HOPED TO HEAR!
YOUR HAND, MAN... ALLIES WE SHALL BE!
UNTIL VICTORY. FOR WHY SHOULD ANY SUPERSTITIOUS BARBARIAN RULE... WHEN THE PITLL PAWOB CAN DO IT BETTER?!


SO KRYLAR, STEWARD --LEADER--OF THE PITLL PAWOB COMES TO THE KEEP OF THE TRAITOR, VISIS.
HARD UPON HIS HEELS COME OTHERS...THE LEGIONS OF QUEEN JARELLA. AND BY THE FIRST MOON'S LIGHT, THEY ENCAMP... AND WAIT.
MUST YOU LEAVE MY SIDE SO SOON, MY BELOVED,?
THIS NIGHT ABOVE OTHERS--THERE IS MUCH I WOULD SAY.
WE ATTACK AT DAWN, JARELLA...YOU SHOULD REST, TRY TO SLEEP.


OUTSIDE THE QUEEN'S TENT, A FAMILIAR FIGURE OVERTAKES THE MAN FROM ANOTHER WORLD...
FRIEND BANNER, I KNOW THE MIND OF OUR LADY. IT SEETHES WITH CONCERN.
ONCE, THE HAND OF THE GODS TORE YOU FROM HER--
WHO KNOWS WHAT THE 'MORROW OFFERS,? SHE WOULD HAVE ONE NIGHT OF HAPPINESS--
--AND WANTS YOU TO MARRY US, TORLA. I KNOW--

--I SUSPECTED AS MUCH, AND IT TEMPTS ME.
I WANT HAPPINESS TOO... BUT NOT FOR A NIGHT, A MOMENT. I'VE HAD THAT...AND THE HURT THAT FOLLOWS WHEN IT BECOMES ASHES. JARELLA DESERVES SOMETHING BETTER, LASTING--
THAT CAN ONLY COME WHEN THE BATTLE ENDS--
--AND THERE'S PEACE.


DAYBREAK! AND WITH IT--BEFORE THE TRUMPETS OF ATTACK CAN SOUND--A CHALLENGE FROM THE CASTLE.
THEIR CHAMPION AGAINST OURS--
WHOSOEVER TRIUMPHS DECIDES THE BATTLE... AND THE WAR.
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER--
--I'D SWEAR VISIS HAD SEEN TOO MANY MOVIES.

BUT CORNY OR NOT--A LOT OF LIVES WOULD BE SPARED. SEND WORD BACK--
NO, BRUCE! VISIS HASN'T A MAN YOUR EQUAL...THERE'S TREACHERY IN THIS, I KNOW!
WE'LL CARRY THE DAY WITHOUT SUCH A RISK.
CAN WE TELL A WIDOW OR ORPHAN THAT, JARELLA,? I'M GOING.

WE JUDGED OUR MAN WELL, LORD VISIS.
REALLY, KRYLAR--!
HE MAY BE GREEN AS WE--
BUT NO MAN-- ONLY A MISSHAPEN BRUTE!
VISIS! I KNOW IT WON'T BE YOU--
BUT WHOEVER YOU'VE GOT, SEND HIM TO ME!
THEY'RE HOLDING MY BREAKFAST BACK AT CAMP!
GROSS FREAK!
WE HAVE THIS FOR YOU!
F-ZAK!
W-WHAT?! SOME SORT OF RAY DEVICE--!
JARELLA WAS RIGHT ABOUT THIS BEING A TRICK. BUT...IT'S NOT HURTING ME, OR--
WAIT!
OUT OF THE CENTER OF THE RAYS-- SOMETHING'S FORMING--!
NO! IT CAN'T BE! N-NOT--!
YOU! WHO ARE YOU? YOU HAVE HULK'S FACE... BUT SPEAK WITH VOICE OF PUNY BRUCE BANNER!
--AND HULK HATES BRUCE BANNER!
BOM!
HATES HIM ENOUGH TO SMASH--
--TO KILL!
AND HERE IT IS, BRUCE BANNER, IN LIVING COLOR--
THAT NIGHTMARE ALWAYS TUCKED IN YOUR MIND'S NETHER CORNERS, THE DARK SIDE OF YOU--THE HULK SIDE--TOTALLY FREE, AMOK--

--UNCHECKED BY EVEN THE SMALL STRAIN OF YOUR OWN PERSONALITY NORMALLY FOUND IN YOUR BRUTE-HALF!
WOM!
THE HULK GONE BERSERK!
POUND FOR POUND, MUSCLE FOR MUSCLE...YOU'RE EQUAL.
THOK!
BUT YOUR MIND IS A PHYSICIST'S MIND, A CIVILIZED MIND--
--PITTED AGAINST SENSES UNRELIEVEDLY SAVAGE!
WIT, STRATEGY, MAY MOMENTARILY SERVE, BUT HOW LONG AGAINST THE MERCILESS, UNRELENTING DRIVE TO VIOLENCE--
--THAT IS YOUR FOE'S.?
THAT HURTS HULK, MAKES HIM MAD.
AND THE MADDER HULK GETS--
SO, YOU FACE YOUR GREATEST FEAR, BRUCE BANNER--
--THE STRONGER HULK GETS!
KA-BRAM!
--AND IT IS KILLING YOU!

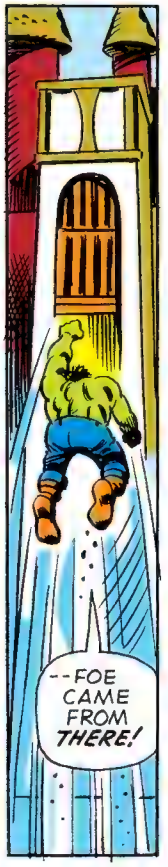
NOW, HULK WITH WEAKLING BANNER'S VOICE--
--YOU DIE!
AND AS YOUR ARMS FLAIL HELPLESSLY, AS THE WORLD SWIMS DIMLY BEFORE YOU... IT SEEMS THIS MUST BE TRUE.
IF YOU WERE ALONE, IT WOULD BE, BRUCE BANNER. BUT THE WOMAN WHO LOVES YOU HAS SEEN--
AND HAVING UNDERSTOOD...ACTS!
TORLA! WE NEED A SORCERERS' TRIAD...SWIFTLY!
YOUR SPELL WHICH FIRST LET THE HULK SPEAK OUR TONGUE--
--ALSO GAVE HIM BRUCE'S MIND.
BUT IF HE COULD BECOME AGAIN AS WHEN HE ARRIVED ON OUR WORLD--
THERE MIGHT STILL BE HOPE FOR HIM AGAINST HIS FOE.
A FIGHTING CHANCE. THAT IS WHAT THESE THREE CONJURERS PLAN TO GRANT AS THEY FORM THEIR MYSTIC LINK...
HARK, BROTHERS--
--WE BEGIN.
LET ECHO OUR CHANT THROUGH THE UNIVERSE--
THAT GODS MAY HEAR AND OUR SPELL REVERSE--
YOUR DEAD, BANNER. NO WAY TO BREAK FREE OR--
MY MIND! SOMETHING TOUCHING MY MI--
THE TOUCH OF SORCERY, THE TUG OF MAGIC... AND THAT IN THE HULK WHICH IS BRUCE BANNER--
--RECEDES FROM CONTROL! WHAT IS LEFT IS THE CREATURE OF OLD--
-UFFF!- WHAT HAPPENS TO HULK--?
WHAT HAPPENS TO ONE HULK WAS FIGHTING?
HE IS... GONE!
YES. THE CREATURE, THE BRUTE OF OLD... WHO KNOWS NO FEAR!

KRYLAR! WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?
VICTORY WAS OURS! WHAT BASE DECEIT MADE YOU STOP THE MACHINE?
SIMPLETON! THE WEAPON STILL FUNCTIONS.
BUT SOME STRANGE OTHER FORCE IS AT WORK NOW--

SUCH AS YOUR MEALY MOUTH, WHELP OF A WARTHO.?
AM I A FOOL TO BELIEVE THE MONSTER SUDDENLY LOST ALL FEAR.? RATHER I THINK YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME TO JARELLA!
AND MUST DIE FOR IT!
MEN OF PITLL PAWOB... TO YOUR STEWARD!
VISIS GOES MAD! LET YOUR BLASTERS SPEAK--

NOT BEFORE MY STEEL, O KRYLAR!
AS FOR YOUR MEN... MY GUARDS DISPATCHED THEM WHILE YOU MANNED THE MACHINE.
PERHAPS I PREMATURELY ANTICIPATED YOUR TREACHERY--
BUT YOU DID NOT DISAPPOINT ME, ALLY MINE!

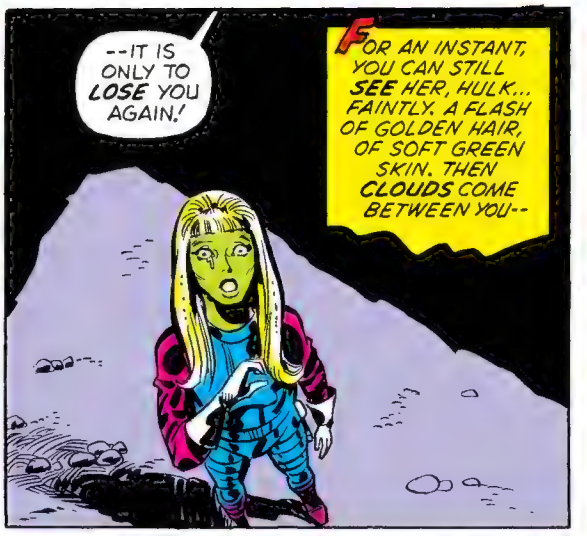
BUT ANOTHER IS DISAPPOINTED...
WHERE HAS FOE WHO LOOKED LIKE HULK GONE?!
HE CANNOT THROW HULK TO GROUND, THEN JUST VANISH--
WILL FIND HIM... FINISH BATTLE!
AND HULK HAS FUNNY FEELING--


--FOE CAME FROM THERE!

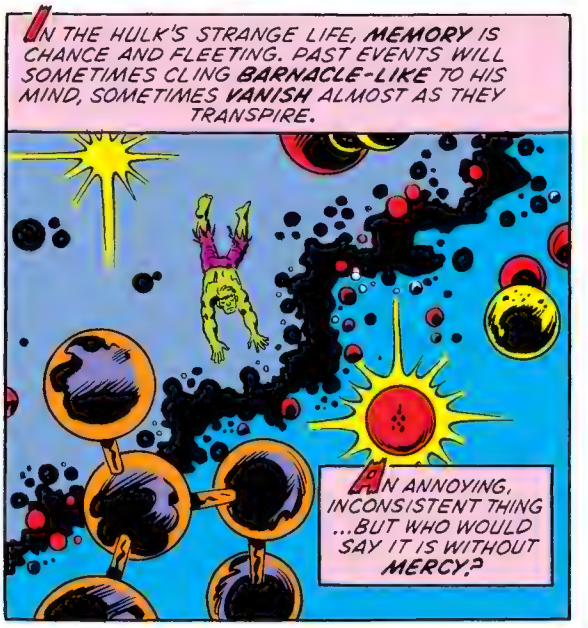
YES! HULK REMEMBERS... BIG HOUSE IS PLACE OF ENEMIES! ENEMIES OF--
WHAT?! SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENS... HULK IS STARTING TO--
--GROW! BUT WHY... WHY?
BECAUSE, HULK, A SERUM YOU TOOK--DEVELOPED BY A MAN NAMED PYM--WAS UNSTABLE, SO UNSTABLE THAT ITS SHRINKING EFFECT IS NOW WEARING OFF!

A FACT EVEN LORD VISIS, IN THE SECURITY OF HIS STRONGHOLD--
--PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SETTLING OF SCORES--
--AND THE SALVAGING OF AMBITIONS--
--CANNOT TOTALLY IGNORE!
VA-KOOM!
NOR, UNFORTUNATELY, CAN OTHERS--
--OTHERS SUCH AS THE FAIR JARELLA.
NO, MY LOVE... NO!
IT CANNOT BE HAPPENING AGAIN--
I MUST NOT BE LOSING YOU AS BEFORE!
PLEASE, O QUEEN... HAVE CARE! 'TIS BEYOND OUR HELPING--
AND HE GROWS WITH SUCH ERRATIC FORCE--

JARELLA...! HULK SEARCHED AND SEARCHED TO FIND YOU.
AND NOW THAT HULK HAS--

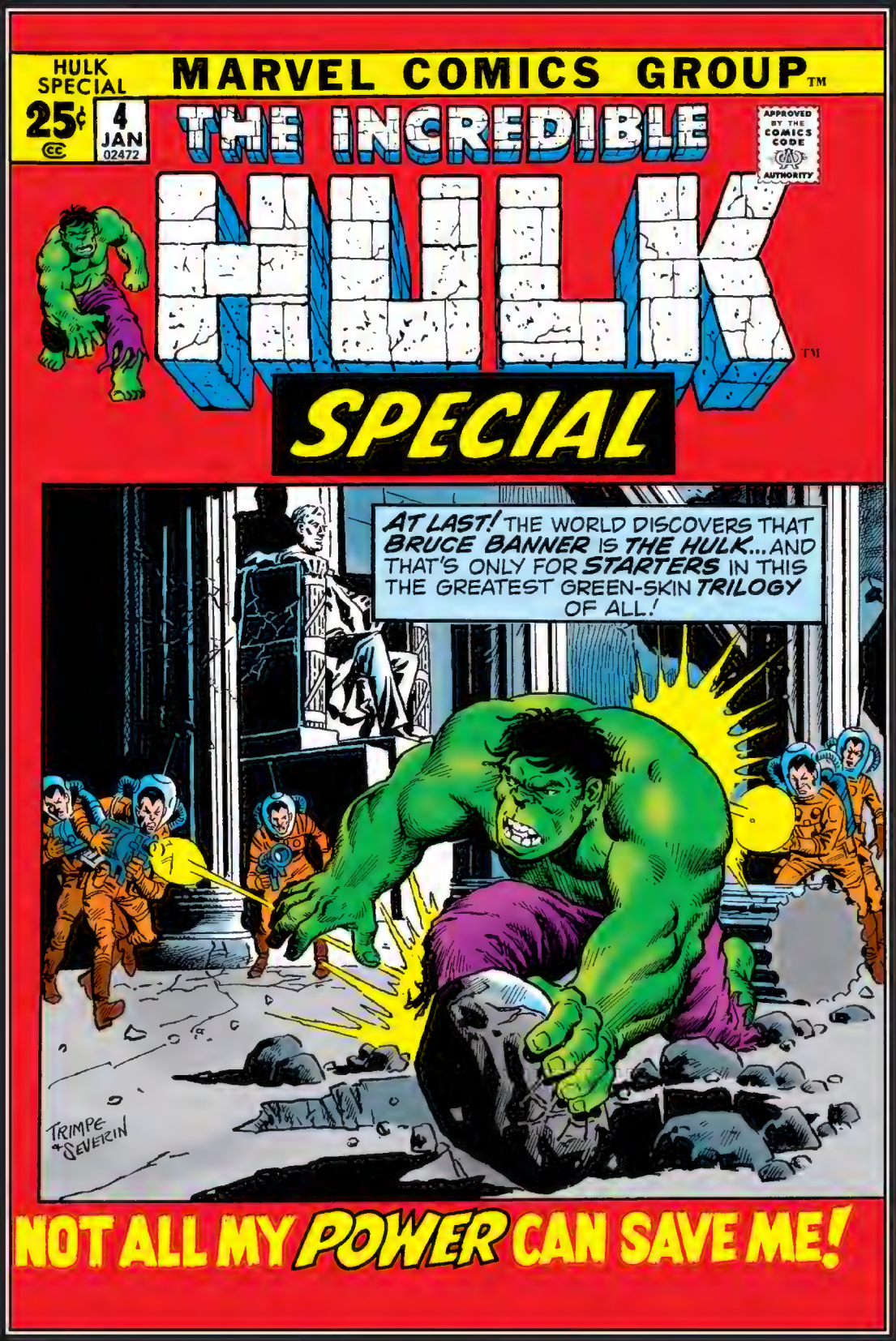

--IT IS ONLY TO LOSE YOU AGAIN!
FOR AN INSTANT, YOU CAN STILL SEE HER, HULK... FAINTLY. A FLASH OF GOLDEN HAIR, OF SOFT GREEN SKIN. THEN CLOUDS COME BETWEEN YOU--

--AND YOU ARE AGAIN A COLOSSUS THRUSTING INTO THE MICROCROSMIC VOID. A BEING SO GREAT THAT WHEN YOUR FOOT--
--STRIKES THE WORLD YOU LEAVE, SENDING IT CAREENING FROM ORBIT, YOU SCARCELY FEEL THE JOLT.


IN THE HULK'S STRANGE LIFE, MEMORY IS CHANCE AND FLEETING. PAST EVENTS WILL SOMETIMES CLING BARNACLE-LIKE TO HIS MIND, SOMETIMES VANISH ALMOST AS THEY TRANSPIRE.
AN ANNOYING, INCONSISTENT THING ...BUT WHO WOULD SAY IT IS WITHOUT MERCY?

SO YOU COME ONCE MORE TO EARTH, HULK, THE SLATE OF YOUR MEMORY WIPED CLEAN...SAVE PERHAPS, FOR A DIMLY PERCEIVED SENSE OF LOSS--
--NO BETTER UNDERSTOOD--
--THAN THE REASON FOR THE TEAR NOW WELLING IN THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE.
-FIN-

Cover from *The Incredible Hulk Annual* #4 (Jan. 1972)
reprinting *Tales to Astonish* #75-77 & *Not Brand Echh* #5


HULK SPECIAL
25¢
4
JAN
02472
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
THE INCREDIBLE HULK™
SPECIAL
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
AT LAST! THE WORLD DISCOVERS THAT BRUCE BANNER IS THE HULK... AND THAT'S ONLY FOR STARTERS IN THIS THE GREATEST GREEN-SKIN TRILOGY OF ALL!
TRIMPE + SEVERIN
NOT ALL MY POWER CAN SAVE ME!

Marvel's 1971 switch from the industry standard 32-page, 15¢ format to a longer, 48-page 25¢ format—and quick reversion back to the 32-page format at 20¢ after only a month—triggered a host of problems. Stories that were planned for the longer format had to be split across two issues and new stories and features were commissioned to round out issues that ran short.

Courtesy Glen David Gold

The Incredible Hulk #146 was one of the issues caught up in the format switch. Its story was spread across the published issues #146-147 with a short backup story added to the latter issue. More intriguing though is that the artwork that saw print as *The Incredible Hulk* #147 cover was originally intended for issue #146 under the 25¢ format. And even *more* surprising, even controversial, is that the original rendition of the cover featured then-President Richard Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew with the cover copy "Stop the Hulk--Before He Can Kill the President!" (seen at right in the only known photo of the art.)

For the final print cover, Nixon and Agnew were replaced by Gen. "Thunderbolt" Ross, Betty Ross and Major Glenn Talbot, and the Hulk, rather than the president, was the one marked for death.

The original art of the final cover below is almost entirely a photostat. (The area where Nixon and Agnew appeared was cut out of the photostat and Herb Trimpe drew Gen. Ross and company in their spot, leaving no chance for Nixon and Agnew to be hidden underneath the art patch.)

If the original Nixon/Agnew piece ever surfaces, it will be included in future Hulk collections.

While the format switching caused a few months of upheaval for Marvel's editors and creators, it also led to them overtaking their long-time rival, DC Comics. DC matched Marvel's switch to the 25¢ format but held on to it longer, filling out their titles with reprints. Marvel's better price point and new-content-only approach helped sales and finally, Marvel, the publisher that almost disappeared after its 1957 distribution collapse took the position as the top comics publisher, a position it has largely held ever since.

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

BIOGRAPHIES

ARCHIE GOODWIN

Looking for a job, Archie Goodwin was immediately sized up by publisher Jim Warren to be a meek, quiet fellow who at first glance didn't appear to have the necessary mettle to handle the chaotic life of an editor. But as Goodwin would later say of himself, behind that quiet demeanor was a furtively creative thinker that lived to "lose myself in the fantasy of comics."

As a teenager during the '50s, he was an acolyte of E.C. Comics, contributing material to fanzines like *Hoohah* and *Twig Illustrated*. Though his abiding reputation in comics would come from his writing and editorial abilities, Goodwin studied art at New York's School of Visual Arts. His first work in publishing included turns as strip artist Leonard Starr's assistant, editing for the women's magazine *Redbook* and cartooning for the outdoor magazine *Fishing World*.

His first venture into comic books came in 1964, when he joined the staff of Warren Publishing. Goodwin quickly made a name for himself both editing and writing for *Creepy* and *Eerie*, and also launched the much-revered *Blazing Combat*. He instilled a degree of class to Warren's small line that helped draw top talent, which in turn established it as a fine inheritor of E.C.'s legacy. His later work for *Vampirella* came in a brief but highly regarded stint that helped to establish a bona fide mythos for the character.

His work at Marvel began in the late '60s with short stints on *Incredible Hulk* and *Fantastic Four*, the latter job giving him the honor of being the first writer to script *FF* other than Stan Lee. But it was his work on *Iron Man* where Goodwin would make his biggest mark on the Marvel Age of Comics, writing the first 28 issues of the character's solo title.

Shortly thereafter, he began a brief writer/editor stint at DC on *Detective Comics* as well as several war titles that Joe Kubert was leaving. He also wrote a well-remembered run of *Manhunter* backup stories in collaboration with Walt Simonson, an artist he had a hand in discovering.

Heading back to Marvel, he served as editor in chief before handing the reins to Jim Shooter. His later accomplishments for Marvel included negotiating licensing for *Star Wars* and other top-selling movie adaptations and launching the Epic line. He also wrote early issues of Wolverine's solo title.

Goodwin returned to DC in 1989 to write and edit until his death from cancer in 1998, still in the prime of a career that saw him establish a legacy in every aspect of the comics field. In particular, he was regarded as a man who handled his job as an editor not simply to shepherd comics through their development process but also to mentor younger editors into fulfilling their own potential.

HERB TRIMPE

He may not have dreamed up as many characters as Kirby or Ditko, or had as groundbreaking a style as Steranko or Adams—and he'll be the first one to tell you that! But Herb Trimpe is easily one of the most recognizable comic artists of all time, owing to the incredible popularity of two titles (*Incredible Hulk*, *G.I. Joe*) he made successes.

Herb joined Marvel's production department fresh out of the armed forces, where he served in the Air Force as a weatherman from 1962-1966, providing weather telemetry to forces in Vietnam. In between his office duties, he landed fill-in work as a penciler and inker on books like *Kid Colt, Outlaw* and *Marvel Super-Heroes* #16, featuring the Phantom Eagle, a collaboration with writer Gary Friedrich that played off Herb's well-known interest in drawing airplanes.

He also inked several books, most notably over Marie Severin's Hulk in *Tales to Astonish*. Several months later, Herb got the book as his own, and from 1968 to 1975, the Hulk's tales were drawn under his auspices. He combined an E.C.-influenced approach to layouts with Kirby-esque dynamics, a style that became even more pronounced when he began inking his own pencils with issue #117. Through it all, he never strayed from the elements of the character he felt had already been perfected: the pathos of a tragic figure's Jekyll/Hyde dual personality. During his tenure, he came up with the Hulkbusters, did character designs for the likes of Wendigo and Zzzax, and also drew the first appearance of Wolverine in *Incredible Hulk* #180-182.

After the Hulk, Trimpe drew *Godzilla*, *Shogun Warriors* and *The Defenders*. He also drew the first several issues of Marvel UK's *Captain Britain*. As the 1980s began, Trimpe drew a much-beloved run on *Marvel Team-Up*, but it was the launch of *G.I. Joe* that would make Trimpe's some of the most seen comic art of the decade. An instant hit, selling hundreds of thousands of copies over multiple printings, it was the start of an incredibly successful, long-running title. In addition to the early *G.I. Joe* issues, Trimpe drew its spinoff title, *G.I. Joe Special Missions*.

Another highlight in Trimpe's career was providing breakdown art in collaboration with Barry Windsor-Smith on the *Machine Man* limited series. Later in the decade, his workload scaled back to spot penciling and inking jobs. In 2002, he was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the San Diego Comic-Con for services rendered as a chaplain at Ground Zero after 9/11.

ROY THOMAS

Along with fellow fan Jerry Bails, Roy Thomas developed the first known organized comic fandom in the pages of *Alter Ego*, a self-published fanzine. Leaving his teaching position in 1965, Roy took his deep knowledge of comics characters and their history and moved to New York City, accepting a job under DC Comics editor Mort Weisinger. His stay lasted little over a week before he opted for a position at Marvel, where under Stan Lee, his duties quickly matured from proofreading to more serious work as an editorial assistant and writer.

Titles as disparate as *Modeling With Millie*, *Kid Colt* and *Sgt. Fury* were written under his auspices before he was able to fulfill his desire to write super-hero stories on Iron Man in *Tales of Suspense* #73 and a pair of Dr. Strange stories for *Strange Tales*.

Stan must have liked what he was reading, because after this seeming trial period, Roy "The Boy" (as he was called in credits) was given both *Sgt. Fury* and *The X-Men*. Along with artist Werner Roth, Thomas took the X-Men on adventures around the world and told the characters' pre-X-Men origins. In

addition to introducing Banshee, Sunfire and Havok, Thomas' X-Men credits also include his watershed collaboration with artist Neal Adams.

Proving his mettle on *X-Men* led him to *The Avengers*, and it was with this team that Roy really started crafting his legacy. Across 70 consecutive issues of Earth's Mightiest Heroes, he became perhaps the title's definitive writer, introducing characters such as the Vision and penning classic sagas including the "Kree/Skrull War." Before the '60s ended, Thomas chalked up noteworthy runs as writer of *Doctor Strange*, *Sub-Mariner*, *Captain Marvel* and more.

In the '70s, Thomas' influence at Marvel widened to include the first adaptation of Robert E. Howard's *Conan the Barbarian,* a reinvention of Adam Warlock, and a new super-team, The Defenders. By 1972 Roy was selected to succeed Stan Lee as editor in chief. His tenure as EIC lasted for over two years before he returned to his writer/editor role on *Fantastic Four*, *Thor*, *Savage Sword of Conan*, *What If...?* and *The Invaders*.

In 1980, he left the House of Ideas for DC to pursue a lifelong dream by reviving the Justice Society of America in the pages of *All-Star Squadron.* He wrote many more comics for DC and Marvel over the next two decades and is still active today, writing comics, historical studies, adaptations of classic novels and publishing his award-winning *Alter Ego*. Thomas' career contributions were acknowledged with his induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame's 2011 class. He lives in South Carolina with his wife and collaborator, Dann, and an amazing menagerie of animals that must make the neighbors nervous.

DICK AYERS

A 13th-generation American whose family landed in Massachusetts in 1635, Dick Ayers was born in 1924 in Ossining, New York. After serving in the Army Air Corps in World War II, Ayers was drafted into comic art by Burne Hogarth and attended the first session of the Cartoonists and Illustrators School. Within a short time he was turning in his first work for Vin Sullivan's Magazine Enterprises, drawing comics like *Jimmy Durante* and Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's *Funnyman*. One of the highlights of his early years was *Ghost Rider*, the spooky, masked Western hero that was later revived at Marvel Comics.

In fact, it was with Marvel, then known as Atlas, that Ayers started to gain renown as a multi-skilled artist in both inking and penciling. He was attached to many successful Westerns, like *Wyatt Earp* and *Rawhide Kid*, contributed art to the 1953-54 revival of the Human Torch and was a mainstay on Atlas' many horror/fantasy titles. After the 1957 Atlas implosion, Ayers became one of the most prolific inkers across a wide variety of titles, most notably as Jack Kirby's inker on the era's giant monster romps. When the first Marvel super heroes debuted in the early '60s, Ayers was behind the inks on many of the earliest adventures of the FF, Avengers, Hulk and Iron Man. He kept his penciling skills sharp on *Sgt. Fury and the Howling Commandos*, contributing to over fifty issues. In 2005, Ayers released the third and final volume of his autobiography in graphic novel form and, in 2007 he was inducted into the Will Eisner Comic Book Hall of Fame. Ayers passed away 2014 shortly after his 90th birthday.

CHRIS CLAREMONT

It is hard to remember a time when the word "mutant" didn't correspond with the largest and most ardently followed franchise in comics, but in the mid-'70s the X-Men were naught but a forgotten team of misfits. Chris Claremont and his collaborators took this moribund property and issue by issue transformed it into a phenomenon now known the world over.

Claremont began his career in comics in the early '70s pitching in on issues of *Avengers*, *Daredevil* and *Incredible Hulk*, while also delivering several text stories to Marvel's black-and-white magazines. His first regular writing gig was *War Is Hell*, a "weird war" title that came to a close just as his run on *X-Men* and *Iron Fist* began. *Iron Fist*, which rolled out of the pages of *Marvel Premiere*, was done in concert with artist John Byrne, forming a key partnership that would pay big dividends later. Other high-profile projects from Claremont's first full decade in comics included *Marvel Preview*'s Starlord, *Ms. Marvel*, *Marvel Team-Up* (again with Byrne) and *John Carter: Warlord of Mars*.

But it was in the pages of *X-Men* where Claremont would change comics history. In tandem with artists Dave Cockrum and John Byrne, Claremont helped build a cornerstone franchise for Marvel. After writer Len Wein launched the newly updated series in 1975 with *Giant-Size X-Men* #1, Claremont was tasked with guiding the new adventures of the mutant misfits, and he did so by crafting layered stories that balanced crisp dialogue with high-octane action. Claremont placed a premium on characterization, a lofty goal in a team book with many players, but he did so deftly enough to spin a wide-ranging tapestry of characters, each of whom became fan favorites.

Leading breathless fans down the path of classics including "The Dark Phoenix Saga," "Days of Future Past," and *God Loves, Man Kills*, he helped build such an intense loyalty that it only made sense to spin-off the X-Men's success into new books. The first such spin-off was *The New Mutants*. Later in the decade, Claremont launched *Excalibur* with Alan Davis and established a regular series for Wolverine with John Buscema.

In 1990, he launched a new sister title for the main team of mutants with Jim Lee; *X-Men* #1 premiered to numbers that made it the highest-selling comic ever. After a long break from the company, Claremont returned to Marvel in 2000, and over the next ten years wrote the novelization of Bryan Singer's X-Men film, took on the Fantastic Four, and charted the adventures of Marvel's mutants across a variety of titles.

GERRY CONWAY

In 1969, 16-year-old Gerry Conway was shopping short stories to DC and Marvel for their horror anthology books. By 1976, Conway had worked his way up to Marvel's editor in chief. In between, he logged highlight after highlight as writer for both companies.

After establishing a pedigree with horror short stories, Conway quickly became the regular writer of *Daredevil*, *Sub-Mariner* and *Iron Man*. He also began runs on *The Amazing Spider-Man* and *Thor*, picking up both titles from none other than Stan Lee. He scripted both for nearly 50 issues, writing controversial and classic tales including "The Death of Gwen Stacy," the first appearance of the Punisher, and the introduction of Harry Osborn as the Green Goblin. Cueing off his early interest in horror stories, Conway took advantage of Marvel's burgeoning line of horror comics, launching *Werewolf By Night* and *Man-Thing*, as well as writing the first issue of *Tomb of Dracula*.

In 1976, he was handed the top job at Marvel before transitioning

to DC Comics. One of his first big assignments was writing the script for one of the first inter-company crossovers, *Superman vs. The Amazing Spider-Man.* Shortly thereafter, he began a long tenure on prime DC titles like *Superboy & The Legion of Super-Heroes*, *World's Finest* and *Wonder Woman*. He also introduced Firestorm with Al Milgrom in 1978, scribing all five issues of the short-lived '70s incarnation.

As the '80s dawned, he started a long run writing both key Batman titles, *Detective Comics* and *Batman*, and continued his run on *Justice League of America*, a stint that began in earnest in 1978 and would end with the dismantling of the infamous JLA Detroit in 1986. During this era, he also revived Firestorm with artist Pat Broderick; this time the title found traction and Conway wrote the first 53 issues. A return to Marvel in the late '80s saw Conway tackling two of the three Spider-Man titles: *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and *Web of Spider-Man*.

During this period, Conway was asserting himself as a writer in film and television. His early '80s screenplay collaborations with Roy Thomas resulted in the animated film *Fire and Ice* and barbarian sequel *Conan the Destroyer*. By the late '80s, his opportunities in television writing had expanded, and he left comics to pursue writing and producing for *Matlock*, *Father Dowling Mysteries*, *Diagnosis: Murder* and *Law & Order*.

Today, Conway continues writing and producing for television and has recently returned to script the occasional comic. He resides in California with his wife and their daughter.

GARY FRIEDRICH

The early days of Gary Friedrich's life as a comics writer have a similar arc to that of teenage pal Roy Thomas. The pair befriended each other in their high school days and established a bond through their love of comics. After Thomas made the trip to New York City and started his comics career in earnest, he made it clear to his pal in Missouri that there might be a job in the field for him. Friedrich scored his first work from Dick Giordano, writing various Charlton comics including *Blue Beetle* stories drawn by none other than Steve Ditko.

At the same time, he picked up work at Marvel, his first effort being the Western *Ghost Rider* with Dick Ayers and Roy Thomas. Other contributions during this time included other Westerns like *Rawhide Kid* and *Two-Gun Kid*, as well as war titles like *Captain Savage* and *Sgt. Fury*, wherein he started a four-year run that saw him cautiously but profoundly merge a sense of social commentary and allegory into the long-running series. Beyond his work on these titles, Friedrich contributed to titles that were in transition between regular writers, including *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Captain Marvel*.

The early '70s saw Friedrich helm Marvel's latest new war title, *Combat Kelly*, but his most significant contribution of the era was taking place in the pages of the showcase title *Marvel Spotlight*. Friedrich, along with Roy Thomas and artist Mike Ploog, introduced the flaming-skulled, chopper-riding Johnny Blaze. He wrote the first dozen stories featuring the iconic character and in the meantime wrote a faithful adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic novel in *Monster of Frankenstein*. These were to be his last major contributions to Marvel.

After a stint with the short-lived Atlas/Seaboard company in the mid-'70s and then a brief run writing *Captain Britain* stories for Marvel UK, Gary left the comics scene, though he is still a featured guest at comic conventions.

LEN WEIN

Len Wein's career is highlighted by successes from Swamp Thing to the "All-New, All-Different" X-Men, but few fans know that the award-winning writer and editor started out as a comic-book artist.

As a teenager, Wein was tied to the hip with fellow fanzine writer Marv Wolfman, regularly skipping school to tour the DC Comics offices. After building a rapport with artists and execs like Dick Giordano, Carmine Infantino and Joe Orlando, Wein was able to credibly pitch to the editors. Though his artwork was politely passed upon, a script for *House of Mystery* was accepted and a career as a writer was born. Len attacked his new occupation with gusto, writing for DC, Marvel, Gold Key and Skywald, on everything from Western to horror, and licensed properties from Hot Wheels to Star Trek.

Although his desired career as an artist didn't quite pan out, it did give Wein insight into his collaborator's creative process and helped him garner acclaim as a writer that was "easy to draw." After super-hero work in the early '70s (Daredevil, Superman, Flash), he and artist Bernie Wrightson launched horror mainstay Swamp Thing in the pages of *House of Secrets* #92. Other notable achievements from his tenure at DC include a run on *Justice League of America* and the debut of the Human Target.

Hopping over to Marvel in 1974, where he followed Roy Thomas as editor in chief, Wein scripted several series, including *Incredible Hulk*, where he and artist Herb Trimpe introduced one of comics' most famous characters—Wolverine. That wasn't the end of his mutant milestones, as with artist Dave Cockrum he revived the dormant X-Men property with a new international cast. Its cadre of characters, including Storm, Nightcrawler and Colossus would shortly turn into comics' biggest phenomenon.

Returning to DC, Wein helped spur a creative revival at the company, editing *New Teen Titans*, *Camelot 3000* and *Swamp Thing*, which gave writer Alan Moore his American debut; shortly thereafter, Wein would preside over Moore and Dave Gibbon's groundbreaking *Watchmen*. Since then, Wein's credits in comics, animation and television writing have been numerous and well received as witnessed by his 2008 induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

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THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-8

THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

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GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
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GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
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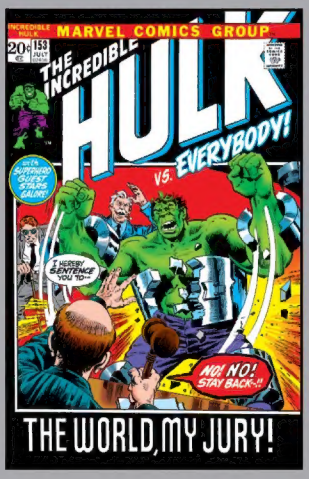

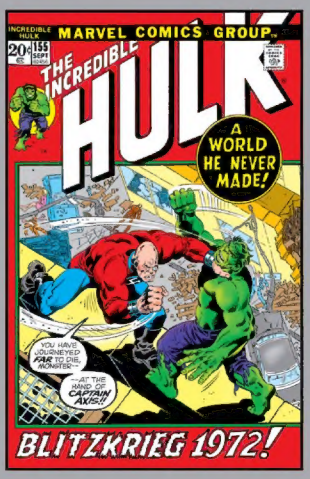

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